

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUSTIN MILLER

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To designate each June 25 from 2021 to 2025 as Clifton Chenier Day in Louisiana.

3 WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier was born on June 25, 1925, near Opelousas, Louisiana;

4 and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier helped to pioneer the development of zydeco music, a

6 southern Louisiana blend of blues rhythms and French, African-American, Native American,

7 and Afro-Caribbean traditions; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier was billed as the "king of zydeco" and helped to popularize

9 zydeco music by infusing R&B and swing into his music with his chromatic piano

10 accordion; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1954, Mr. Chenier began his recording career under the Elko Records

12 label, and from his first recording session at the Lake Charles radio station KAOK, the

13 regional hit singles "Cliston's Blues" and "Louisiana Stomp" were born; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1955, Mr. Chenier signed with Specialty Records and garnered his

15 first national hit with his label debut entitled "Ay-Tete-Fi" (Hey, Little Girl), which was a

16 cover of a song by Professor Longhair; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1976, Mr. Chenier formed the Red Hot Louisiana Band, which

18 featured his brother and rubboard player Cleveland Chenier, saxophonist John Hart, guitarist

19 Paul 'Lil' Buck' Sinegal, guitarist Joe Brouchet, drummer Robert St. Julien, and Stanley

20 "Buckwheat" Dural, who later started the Grammy- and Emmy-winning band Buckwheat

21 Zydeco; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier traveled throughout Europe introducing zydeco to the
2 world; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1983, Mr. Chenier received a Grammy award for his album entitled
4 *I'm Here*; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1984, Mr. Chenier won a National Heritage Fellowship from the
6 National Endowment for the Arts, an award which is the nation's highest honor with respect
7 to folk and traditional arts; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2011, Mr. Chenier and his band were inducted into the Grammy Hall
9 of Fame for the 1975 album *Bogalusa Boogie*, and during the same year, Mr. Chenier was
10 inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2014, Mr. Chenier received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement
12 Award, a distinct honor that recognizes the creative contributions of music's elite artists; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier died on December 12, 1987, in Lafayette, Louisiana, and
14 was buried in All Souls Cemetery in Loureaville, Louisiana; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Chenier has made a significant mark on Creole and zydeco music
16 by creating a distinct musical style not only for the state of Louisiana but for the world as
17 a whole.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
19 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize each June 25 from 2021 to 2025 as Clifton
20 Chenier Day in Louisiana, and hereby acknowledges the extraordinary musical
21 accomplishments of this legendary Louisiana musician.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 129 Original

2021 Regular Session

Dustin Miller

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