

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 210

BY SENATORS BARROW, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CATHEY, CONNICK, DUPLESSIS, JACKSON-ANDREWS, JENKINS, MCMATH, MILLER, MIZELL, MORRIS, MYERS, OWEN, PRICE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the month of June as "African-American Music Appreciation Month" in Louisiana and to honor the invaluable contributions of African-American artists from Louisiana to the rich cultural heritage and global legacy of American music.

WHEREAS, in 1979, President Jimmy Carter designated June as "Black Music Month", a national celebration of African-American musical achievement; and in 2009, President Barack Obama re-established the observance under the name "African-American Music Appreciation Month" to more accurately reflect the impact and origins of this music; and

WHEREAS, African-American music has served as a foundation of American culture and identity, shaping the nation's artistic, social, and political landscape through genres such as gospel, blues, jazz, zydeco, funk, R&B, and Hip-Hop; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has long been a cradle of musical innovation, producing a "gumbo" of sonic traditions that include jazz in New Orleans, zydeco and Creole rhythms in the Acadiana region, gospel choirs, blues musicians, and more; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has also left a transformative imprint on Hip-Hop music, rising from humble beginnings to become one of the most influential centers of rap in the world; and

WHEREAS, though Hip-Hop's roots trace back to a 1973 block party in the Bronx with DJ Kool Herc and MC Coke La Rock, Louisiana would soon claim its own space in the movement with pioneering figures like Gregory D and Mannie Fresh, who became the first Louisiana rap act to be officially signed; and

WHEREAS, early artists such as T.T. Tucker and DJ Jimi helped lay the foundation for bounce music, a uniquely New Orleans subgenre that energized communities and introduced a distinct rhythm built upon the iconic "Triggerman" beat; and

WHEREAS, Baton Rouge artist, MC Nero, garnered early attention in 1991 with

"Gotta Lotta Respect", and shortly after, rapper Kyper placed Louisiana firmly on the national radar with his platinum-certified hit "Tic-Tac-Toe"; and

WHEREAS, the mid-1990s witnessed the emergence of three powerhouse labels that launched some of the most successful artists in Hip-Hop history: No Limit Records, founded by Master P in New Orleans; Cash Money Records, founded by Bryan "Baby" Williams and Ronald "Slim" Williams; and Concentration Camp, established in Baton Rouge by C-Loc; and

WHEREAS, No Limit Records introduced the world to artists such as Mia X, Silkk the Shocker, and Mystikal, and broke new ground in music business practices by brokering an 80/20 profit-sharing distribution deal, preserving creative and financial independence; and

WHEREAS, Cash Money Records redefined commercial success in Hip-Hop with artists such as Juvenile, BG, Turk, and Lil Wayne - whom Billboard ranked as the 7th greatest rapper of all time - and later served as the launching pad for global icons Drake and Nicki Minaj; and

WHEREAS, Baton Rouge's Concentration Camp served as a critical incubator for talent such as Lil Boosie (Boosie Badazz), Young Bleed, and Max Minelli, establishing a legacy that endures through artists like Kevin Gates and NBA YoungBoy, the latter of whom has repeatedly topped national charts; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is also home to lyrically gifted and culturally significant artists including Jay Electronica, Curren\$y, Mac Phipps, and others whose work has pushed the boundaries of the genre; and

WHEREAS, a multitude of independent emcees, DJs, and producers across Louisiana continue to enrich the Hip-Hop landscape, often without mainstream recognition, by connecting communities, telling powerful stories, and preserving the regional sound; and

WHEREAS, influential radio DJs and hosts such as Jewel "Juiceman" Jackson, Ernest "The Nightrider" Smith, and Joe Marquis Anthony have helped amplify Louisiana's musical voices to audiences across the state and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's profound contributions to African-American music, especially Hip-Hop, have created a legacy that honors the past, inspires the present, and shapes the future of global culture.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the month of June as "African-American Music Appreciation Month" in Louisiana; does hereby commend the artists who share their musical gifts with the world; and does hereby express enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride they bring to Louisiana citizens.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE