

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY SENATOR GUILLORY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To declare Sunset, Louisiana, the "Rubboard Capital of the World".

WHEREAS, as deeply rooted in the Cajun culture of Louisiana as crawfish étouffée, the Zydeco rubboard, also known as a frottoir, is one of only four true musical instruments that are original to the United States; and

WHEREAS, it is a mid-twentieth century invention designed specifically for Zydeco music; and

WHEREAS, Willie Landry, a Louisiana native working as a master welder and metal fabricator at the Texaco Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, met two brothers from Louisiana, Cleveland and Clifton Chenier in 1946; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland rhythmically strummed his old time, hand-held washboard with bottle openers and played the rubboard to support Clifton's unique brand of emerging Zydeco music; and

WHEREAS, the wood frame washboard was supported on Cleveland's neck by a rope, and Clifton approached Willie Landry with a design for a musical rubboard, the frottoir; and

WHEREAS, Willie crafted the vest frottoir from Clifton's design and the first frottoir to be used strictly as a musical instrument was born from that historical, chance encounter between a now famous Creole musician and a Cajun metal craftsman; and

WHEREAS, the rubboard is played as a stroked percussion instrument, often in a band with a drummer; and

WHEREAS, in Zydeco bands, it is usually played with bottle openers or spoon handles in each hand to make a louder sound and is stroked eight to sixteen times in a four beat measure; and

WHEREAS, Willie Landry's son, Tee Don, mastered his father's techniques for making the rubboard and carries on his father's legacy in his small shop, Key of Z Rubboards, in Sunset, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, each rubboard is handcrafted, registered, and numbered by Tee Don; and

WHEREAS, the stainless steel musical rubboards of today are in demand around the world and have been used by many leading Zydeco band members and celebrities, including Billy F. Gibbons of ZZ Top, Buckwheat Zydeco, C. J. Chenier, Chubby Carrier, Zydeco Joe, Cyril Neville of the Neville Brothers, David Peters of Louisiana's LeRoux, Gatemouth Brown, Mojo and the Bayou Gypsies, and Boo Zoo Chavis; and

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian Institution acquired two hand-made rubboards, which are housed in the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Tee Don Landry's heritage and strong commitment to preserving a unique musical instrument has resulted in the production of high quality stainless steel rubboards, and the continuation of a legacy passed down from father to son in Sunset, Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby declare Sunset, Louisiana, as the "Rubboard Capital of the World".

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES