

DRAFT

RESOLUTION to proclaim June 25, 2021 Clifton Chenier Day for his considerable contributions to music and each June 25th thereafter until 2025, the centennial year of Clifton Chenier's birthdate

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier, was born June 25, 1925 near Opelousas, Louisiana and helped to pioneer the development of zydeco music—a southern Louisiana blend of blues rhythms, French, African American, Native American, and Afro-Caribbean traditions; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier, billed the King of Zydeco, was a significant force popularizing zydeco, infusing R&B and swing into his music with his chromatic piano accordion; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, Clifton Chenier began his recording career under the Elko Records label and from his first recording session at Lake Charles radio station, KAOK, the regional hit singles “Clifton’s Blues” and “Louisiana Stomp” were born; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Clifton Chenier signed with Specialty Records and garnered his first national hit with his label debut "Ay-Tete Fi" (Hey, Little Girl), a cover of Professor Longhair's song; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Clifton Chenier formed the Red Hot Louisiana Band, featuring his brother and rubboard player Cleveland Chenier, saxophonist John Hart, guitarist Paul ‘Lil’ Buck’ Sinegal, guitarist Joe Brouchet, drummer Robert St. Julien and Stanley “Buckwheat” Dural, who later started the Grammy- and Emmy-winning Buckwheat Zydeco band; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier traveled throughout Europe introducing zydeco to the world; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Clifton Chenier received a Grammy award for his album, *I'm Here*; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, Clifton Chenier won a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the nation’s highest honor in the folk and traditional arts; and

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier and his band were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2011 for the 1975 album, *Bogalusa Boogie* and also in 2011, Clifton was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame; and

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

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier died December 12, 1987 in Lafayette, Louisiana, and was buried in All Souls Cemetery in Loreauville, Iberia Parish, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Clifton Chenier, one such musician, has made a significant mark on Creole and zydeco music creating a distinct musical style for the state of Louisiana and beyond.

BE IT RESOLVED BY _____ that we honor and recognize

Clifton Chenier, the King of Zydeco, by proclaiming June 25, 2021 through the centennial year of 2025, **Clifton Chenier Day** in Louisiana.