

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY SENATOR MILLS

A RESOLUTION

To recognize August 15th as a day to honor the Feast of the Acadians.

WHEREAS, August 15th, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is also the Feast of the Acadians; and

WHEREAS, the Acadians originally sailed to Nouvelle-Écosse under the star of Our Lady of the Assumption and again during the Grand Derangement; and

WHEREAS, the Acadian flag, both Canadian and Louisiana Acadian, highlights the centrality of Our Lady of the Assumption for the Acadian people; and

WHEREAS, the gold star on a white field represents Our Lady of the Assumption, Patroness of the Acadians; and

WHEREAS, when the first settlers departed France for the New World, the Virgin Mary was highly revered, and it was a period of great devotion to her; and

WHEREAS, The King of France, Louis XIII, and Pope Pius XI declared the Virgin Mary the patroness of the kingdom, Patronne de Royaume and Patroness Saint of all the Acadians in Canada, Louisiana, and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 1638, France and its colonies were consecrated to Mary under the title "Our Lady of the Assumption", and August 15th has been celebrated as the National Day of the Acadians with corresponding festivities in the areas where Acadians have settled; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, on the Feast of the Acadians, a Mass was held in honor of the Feast of the Assumption in Leonville followed by a thirty-five mile boat procession with the Blessed Sacrament, a Statue of the Assumption, and Acadian flags; and

WHEREAS, approximately two thousand people gathered for the Mass, procession, and arrival at Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville; and

WHEREAS, at the request of many, Bishop Jarrell has approved the Fete-Dieu du Teche to be held annually on August 15th to celebrate the Feast of the Acadians, their arrival in Acadiana, and the importance of their contributions to the culture of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize August 15th as a day to honor the Feast of the Acadians.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Fr. Michael Champagne.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE