REGULAR SESSION
House Concurrent Resolution No. 51
By Mr. Ullo and Senator Nicholson, and Mr. Russell.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Acadian Odyssey Bicentennial Commission to commemorate the two hundredth anniversary of the arrival, in Spanish Louisiana, of those Acadians expelled from their homeland in French Canada.

WHEREAS, the first successful colonization of Acadia was made in the year 1604 by Pierre duGast de Monts, with one hundred and fifty colonists; and,

WHEREAS, during the years 1639 and 1651, the Acadian colony at Port Royal was further colonized by French men and women from the Rochelle, Saintonge and Poitou regions of western France; and

WHEREAS, from the Port Royal region of these Acadians further settled the villages of Grand Pre, Beaubassin, Chipoey, Cobequid, and others; and,

WHEREAS, the Acadians remained true and loyal citizens of France until the year 1713, when all of Acadia was transferred to England by the Treaty of Utrecht; and

WHEREAS, the years from 1713 to 1754 were a trying and critical time for the Acadians, as they were caught between a struggle of the powerful nations of France and England, but did not assist either nation; and

WHEREAS, this period of tranquility for the French people of Acadia ended in 1754 when France and England once again engaged in global war for control of the North American colonies; and

WHEREAS, in 1755 the English expelled the Acadians from their homeland in French Canada, exiling them to England, and France, while causing others to scatter to the American colonies, and the West Indies; and

WHEREAS, after suffering years of neglect in France, an agreement was reached by France and Spain whereby these Acadians would be transported to Spanish Louisiana for re-settlement; and

WHEREAS, this re-settlement was due to an idea originally conceived by Peyroux de la Courtrinere, a native of Nantes, who had lived in Louisiana, and collaborated in by Don Pedro Pablo Abarca de Bolea, the Count of Aranda, who was the Spanish Ambassador to France; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 1785, after years of aimless exile, the first group of exiled Acadians left France forever on the Iragite, Le Bon Papa, finally arriving in New Orleans on July 29, 1785; and

WHEREAS, although this was only the first of seven such expeditions that transported exiled Acadians from France to Louisiana, eventually 1,596 Acadian exiles arrived in Louisiana, making this the largest trans-Atlantic colonization project on the North American continent; and

WHEREAS, those Acadians who migrated to Louisiana during these years had suffered exile, persecution and death rather than abandon their honor, dignity, and religious beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the traditions, customs, and culture of the Acadians have contributed to, and have become an integral part of, the heritage of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the year 1985 will mark the two-hundredth anniversary of the first arrival from France of these Acadians to Louisiana.

THIRTEEN RESOLVED, that the Governor of Louisiana or his designee;

(2) The President of the Senate or his designee;

(3) The Speaker of the House, or his designee;

(4) The Secretary of the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, or her designee;

(5) Two members from the Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum appointed by the governor;

(6) Two members from the Louisiana Tourist Development Commission appointed by the governor;

(7) The Chairman of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, or his designee;

(8) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce, or his designee;

(9) The Consul General of France to Louisiana, or his designee;

(10) The Consul General of Spain to Louisiana, or his designee;

(11) The Consul General of Canada to Louisiana, or his designee; and

(12) Three members from the state at large, appointed by the Governor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this is hereby proclaimed as the Bicentennial Year of the Acadian Odyssey.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this is most appropriate that the Bicentennial Year of the Acadian Odyssey be observed with proper ceremonies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Acadian Odyssey Commission may accept donations or grants of money, property or personal services for the bicentennial commemoration, and that it is the duty of the commission to develop, create, and execute plans, programs, and events in connection with this two-hundredth anniversary observance.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA STATE ACADEAN ODYSSEY BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION


2. Everett Gauthier, state-at-large member, appointed by Governor Edwards. Vice-chairman of Commission.

3. Phyllis Denney, Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum, appointed by Governor Edwards.

4. Elka F. Diefenthal, Board of Directors of the Louisiana State Museum, appointed by Governor Edwards.

5. Ron Faucheux, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Commerce.

6. Rev. Donald Hebert, state-at-large member appointed by Governor Edwards.

7. Billy Jacob, Louisiana Tourist Development Commission, appointed by Governor Edwards.

8. Noelle LeBlanc, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

9. Senator Samuel B. Nunez, Jr., President of the Louisiana Senate.


11. Albert Robicheaux, state-at-large member appointed by Governor Edwards.

12. Representative J. Chris Ullo, designee of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.


15. Stanton, "Buddy" Frazer.