June 5, 2019

Dear Xavierites,

Mrs. Leah Chase was a force of equality in our great City. She fed countless locals and visitors, she nourished the souls of those struggling for civil rights, she represented the best of New Orleans to the world with a humble spirit. Through her culinary gifts and spirit of service, she built bridges of humanity within our community that transcends boundaries of time, place or status.

In her person and through the safehaven she offered to many during the Civil Rights movement, Mrs. Chase moved the mountains toward racial justice in our region. Her belief in the worth of every person dignified the efforts of activists and leaders in the struggle for justice.

Mrs. Chase’s spirit brought forth pure music, as she cultivated the talent of generations of black artists and musicians who came through the doors of Dooky Chase. Her deep love of Xavier University, her commitment to our mission of a quality education for all marginalized people, and her patronage of the arts will continue to nourish future generations, who we will teach and bear her legacy of service that has so closely emulated our foundress’ mission of promoting the more just and humane society.

We are honored to serve as host site for the public viewing, that will be held by Mrs. Chase’s family at the Xavier University Convocation Center on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A celebratory program will follow at 6:00 p.m. I encourage our Xavier family to take a moment and pay their final respects to a dear friend of Xavier and a New Orleans legend.

Mrs. Chase will be sorely missed on earth, and her legacy will not be forgotten. Join me as I send my prayers, deepest condolences and gratitude to the Chase family. May her soul rest in the peace of the everlasting arms.

With Respect,

Reynold Verret
President, Xavier University of Louisiana