

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY SENATOR LAFLEUR

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana for its many contributions to the citizens of the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana is a federally recognized Indian tribe with which the state of Louisiana has enjoyed a productive, amicable, and mutually beneficial relationship; and

WHEREAS, since time immemorial, the ancestors of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana have been residents of the territory now known as the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana currently resides on a reservation located in Avoyelles Parish that was assigned to the tribe by the King of Spain in 1778; and

WHEREAS, members of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe fought alongside and were allies with Don Bernardo de Galvez, Spanish governor of Louisiana, in a victory over British military forces in the Battle of Baton Rouge on September 21, 1779, the only battle of the American Revolution fought outside the territory of the original thirteen colonies; and

WHEREAS, the arts and crafts of members of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana have greatly enriched the artistic, cultural, and spiritual life of the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the state and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana were co-parties in the litigation known as the "Tunica Treasure Case", which resulted in the recovery of the largest discovery of archaeological artifacts ever found in the United States, and ultimately the items were deposited in a museum located on the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation to be enjoyed by visitors from all over the world; and

WHEREAS, the economic development projects of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe have helped rejuvenate central Louisiana, bringing jobs and prosperity to citizens and residents of the state and resulting in marked economic progress throughout Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Paragon Casino and Resort, operated by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, is a vital business partner in the community of central Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the political leadership shown by the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana has consistently exhibited great honor, integrity, foresight, honesty, and solicitude for its people, constituting a major force for progress in the state and providing a role model for the members of the tribe and other Louisiana citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana has cooperated and worked with the state of Louisiana, the parish of Avoyelles, and the municipalities surrounding its reservation to the benefit of all and to the exclusion of wasteful conflict and strife; and

WHEREAS, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana for its many contributions to the citizens of Louisiana and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that the tribe brings to Avoyelles Parish and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Earl J. Barbry Sr., chairman of the Tribal Council of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE