SLS 20RS-13 ORIGINAL

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND TARVER

COMMENDATIONS. Commends The Shreveport Sun on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1 2 To commend *The Shreveport Sun*, its owners, editors, and staff, on the occasion of its one 3 hundredth anniversary and to acknowledge its exemplary status as the oldest black weekly newspaper in the state of Louisiana. 4 5 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana proudly acknowledges The Shreveport Sun 6 as a significant news media publishing outlet and as an effective agent for change in the 7 Ark-La-Tex region; and 8 WHEREAS, The Shreveport Sun shares the spotlight with notable African-American 9 publications, both past and present; each played a major role in local politics and business 10 affairs within their respective communities; these publications include the Louisiana Weekly 11 (New Orleans), the Chicago Defender, the Richmond Planet, the Chicago Bee, the Miami Times, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Roanoke Tribune, the Philadelphia Tribune, the Atlanta 12 13 Daily World, and the Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder; and 14 WHEREAS, in 1920, Melvin Lee (M.L.) Collins Sr., an educator and a steadfast man of vision, founded the weekly newspaper, *The Shreveport Sun*, the first of its kind in the 15 16 community, as he sought to provide a medium against the racial oppression of the time and 17 to provide a venue for acknowledgment of the achievements and social activities of African 18 Americans, who had little representation in mainstream media; and

1	WHEREAS, he published the news events of an under-served constituency, from
2	birth to marriage, then onto a celebration of life, The Shreveport Sun acknowledged the
3	happenings of African-American society and voiced the issues of civil rights, literacy, and
4	economic development that included the advertisement and promotion of minority
5	professionals and business interests; and
6	WHEREAS, in the beginning, The Shreveport Sun served both urban and rural
7	readerships throughout North Louisiana and portions of nearby Texas and Arkansas, being
8	sold for a nickel per copy in grocery stores, on street corners by newsboys, and later by
9	door-to-door solicitations for subscriptions; the Sun paved the way for more minority-owned
10	publications in the state; and
11	WHEREAS, today, The Shreveport Sun enjoys both national and international
12	circulation; and
13	WHEREAS, from its humble origin located in the heart of the Avenue Business
14	District, the Sun survived financially on advertisement space sold to small, minority-owned
15	businesses such as physicians, dentists, funeral homes, and merchants; and
16	WHEREAS, the Sun survived overt opposition and threats through the sheer courage,
17	conviction, pride, and stubbornness of Mr. M. L. Collins Sr.; and
18	WHEREAS, his legacy remains one of enlightenment and hope; and
19	WHEREAS, in its illustrious history, the Sun glistens with numerous journalism and
20	public service awards including the Ann Brewster Award for outstanding journalism, the
21	African American Arts Council patron of the arts award, and recognition as the second
22	oldest minority-owned business in continuous operation in the Shreveport area; and
23	WHEREAS, The Shreveport Sun marks November 6, 2020, as its one hundredth
24	anniversary and celebrates over five thousand editions having missed only one due to a
25	disabled printing press; and
26	WHEREAS, during the turbulent 1960s as voting issues and civil rights emerged as
27	major factors in African-American life, the Sun was at the forefront to offer up concise
28	journalism and perspective; and
29	WHEREAS, in 1962, Melvin Lee Collins Jr., assumed the mantle of editorial
30	responsibility from his father and continued in his footsteps to protect and support freedom

1	of speech until 1983; and
2	WHEREAS, Sonya Collins Landry, daughter of M. L. Collins Jr., ascended to her
3	leadership role in 1983 and her tenure has wrought continued progress and prosperity for the
4	newspaper; and
5	WHEREAS, The Shreveport Sun was founded on November 6, 1920 and its golden
6	anniversary theme is "2020 Vision"; and
7	WHEREAS, in anticipation of this most auspicious event, the Sun and Shreve
8	Memorial Library have partnered to present the Black History Month 2020 Lecture Series
9	throughout the month of February; and
10	WHEREAS, these lecturers shall discuss different aspects of African-American
11	history and create a forum for the exchange of ideas and goals for continued growth within
12	the community; the populace of Caddo Parish looks forward to a brighter future with
13	expanded cultural horizons and economic possibilities; and
14	WHEREAS, the credo of minority publishing has stood the test of time and rings true
15	in today's sociopolitical environment: "The Black Press believes that America can best lead
16	the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every man,
17	regardless of race, creed, or color, his human and legal rights; hating no man, fearing no
18	man, the Black Press strives to help every man in the firm belief that all men are hurt as long
19	as anyone is held back."
20	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
21	commend and congratulate the owners, editors, and staff of <i>The Shreveport Sun</i> for its good
22	works, extraordinary journalism, and integrity, and does hereby recognize its lengthy history
23	of service to the community of Shreveport as an agent for positive change.
24	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
25	Sonya Collins Landry of <i>The Shreveport Sun</i> .

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST SCR 6 Original 2020 Regular Session

Peacock

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