

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1973 Up Stairs Lounge fire in the French
3 Quarter in New Orleans.

4 WHEREAS, in 1973, the city of New Orleans experienced a devastating fire that
5 remains the deadliest in the city's history; this tragic event unfolded at 604 Iberville Street,
6 in the heart of the French Quarter, at the Up Stairs Lounge; and

7 WHEREAS, serving as a sanctuary of love and acceptance in New Orleans, the Up
8 Stairs Lounge was tragically transformed into a symbol of sorrow and exclusion in a mere
9 nineteen minutes; the fire claimed the lives of thirty-two individuals, hospitalized fifteen
10 others, and left an indelible mark on the city's LGBTQ+ community that forever altered its
11 course; and

12 WHEREAS, regrettably, local police at the time did not respond to the fire with the
13 urgency it deserved, and elected officials remained publicly silent about the unnecessary
14 tragedy; adding further anguish, Archbishop Philip Hannan denied the victims Catholic
15 funerals, compounding the pain experienced by the LGBTQ+ community; and

16 WHEREAS, the 1973 arson at the Up Stairs Lounge remains unsolved, despite being
17 the deadliest crime perpetrated against the LGBTQ+ community in American history until
18 the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.

19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
20 commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1973 Up Stairs Lounge fire in the French
21 Quarter in New Orleans; does hereby express profound regret and immense sorrow for the

1 suffering caused by this horrible tragedy and official responses to it, and does hereby express
2 sincerest wishes that we continue to grow as a state in our acceptance and support of our
3 fellow Louisianians.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 129 Original	2023 Regular Session	Knox
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Commemorates the 50th anniversary of the 1973 Up Stairs Lounge fire in the French Quarter in New Orleans.