

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 343

BY REPRESENTATIVES PHELPS, JACKSON, AND WALTERS

A RESOLUTION

To designate July 25-27, 2025, as Notre Dame Catholic High School All-Class Reunion 2025 Weekend in the city of Shreveport and to commend the school on the occasion of its sixty-seventh anniversary.

WHEREAS, in 1958, Shreveport businessman Paul O'Brien and his wife saw the need for Catholic African American students to receive the best possible education; the O'Briens purchased land and built a school to accommodate three hundred students; it opened on September 15, 1958, with one hundred thirty pupils in grades seven through nine; and

WHEREAS, Notre Dame Catholic High School was dedicated to the church on December 7, 1958, and a grade was added each year until the school reached the twelfth grade; the school was a haven for intellectual growth and development and fostered an environment filled with expectations of greatness where strong discipline and warm nurturing brought out the best in its students; and

WHEREAS, among the first instructors at Notre Dame Catholic High School were Sister Mary Ferdinand, Sister Mary Sabina, Mrs. W.E. Hicks, Hosie Sanders, Mrs. J. Washington, Sister Mary Lucy, and Mr. Isaac Greggs, who volunteered as the music teacher and band director and finished his music education career as the band director at Southern University in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, in its heyday, Notre Dame Catholic High School was the pride of Shreveport; the school's mission was "to proclaim witness and to serve", and the administration focused on teaching traditional values and a love of God and one's fellow man; and

WHEREAS, the Notre Dame High School All-Class Reunion celebrates the sixty-seventh anniversary of the school's opening, observing the time-honored tradition of reuniting former classmates to reconnect with each other; recognizing and expressing appreciation for the teachers and administrators who positively impacted the formative years of attendees; and paying tribute to classmates who have passed; and

WHEREAS, each member of each class had unique and special abilities in academics, athletics, singing, oratorical skills, playing an instrument, dancing, or displaying leadership skills; a bond of closeness existed among class members that led to high levels of achievement; and

WHEREAS, the city of Shreveport will welcome esteemed graduates of Notre Dame High School to Shreveport July 25-27, 2025, to participate in the sixty-seventh anniversary of the school's opening, among them alumni who excel in education, entrepreneurship, the service industry, religion, military service, finance, civil and public service, and parenthood, all to the betterment of the areas in which they serve.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate July 25-27, 2025, as Notre Dame Catholic High School All-Class Reunion 2025 Weekend in the city of Shreveport; does hereby commend the school on the occasion of its sixty-seventh anniversary; and does hereby urge all schools in the state of Louisiana to encourage reunions and continue the traditions that fuel the achievements of their alumni.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES