

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR JOHN SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Mill Creek Pentecostal Church and Cemetery upon the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the site of the Mill Creek Pentecostal Church and Cemetery is on property currently owned by the United States Army, and occupied by the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk; and

WHEREAS, the Mill Creek Cemetery is recorded as an archaeological site by the office of Cultural Development, division of archaeology, and is protected by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; and

WHEREAS, the earliest deaths recorded at the Mill Creek Cemetery are shared by the infant children, Daniel Thorton, Charlie Nash, Emma Perkins, Lena Maddox, Allie Mae Haymon, and Dock Haymon Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the first pastor of the Mill Creek Pentecostal Church was the late Reverend William C. Haymon, who founded the church after a series of revival meetings; and

WHEREAS, even though the church and cemetery site has long been void of structures, it now hosts a single sign post which was ceremonially emplaced in 2008, based on oral histories documented by the Heritage Family Association; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the Louisiana Maneuvers, a series of U.S. Army exercises involving four hundred thousand troops, the church enjoyed its silver anniversary in 1940; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of War petitioned the U.S. Congress to exercise its fifth amendment right to acquire more land to train an ill-prepared army for certain battle, and the little church and cemetery were lost in the frenzy; and

WHEREAS, author and archaeologist, Brad Laffitte, has recognized that early church congregant descendants still live in nearby areas, and that the church was primarily about worship, but was also an important social gathering site; and

WHEREAS, the Heritage Family Association will commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Mill Creek Pentecostal Church and Cemetery on April 25, 2015, with a dinner, gospel music, and guest speakers who remain deeply influenced by the early church; and

WHEREAS, the master of ceremonies for the celebration, Brother William "Billy" Nash, is to provide historical accounts of the church ministry, cemetery, and connect family surnames that were instrumental in their foundation, while commemorating the church, the cemetery, and the sacrifices made by the Heritage families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mill Creek Pentecostal Church and Cemetery upon the celebration of its one hundredth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Heritage Family Association, Reverend William Nash, and Ted Hammerschmidt.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE