

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY SENATOR BROWN

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the city of Port Allen, Louisiana, and its citizenry and public officials on the celebration of the first centennial anniversary of the city.

WHEREAS, Port Allen is the parish seat of West Baton Rouge Parish, located between Interstate 10 and US Highway 190 on the west bank of the Mississippi River and with a population of 5,180 according to the 2010 federal decennial census; and

WHEREAS, March 22, 2016, marked a memorable and historic occasion for the city of Port Allen as the one hundredth anniversary of official recognition of the municipality as a village by proclamation by Governor Luther E. Hall; and

WHEREAS, the roots of the city date back to 1809, when a settlement named La Ville St. Michel was established near the site of the current city; and

WHEREAS, while that first settlement was lost to the shifting waters of the Mississippi River in 1870, a new settlement was soon established nearby and in 1878, this settlement was renamed Port Allen after Henry Watkins Allen – a Confederate general who was elected as the seventeenth governor of Louisiana in 1864; and

WHEREAS, the village was redesignated as a city in 1923 as by that time, Port Allen had already been playing a significant role in the transportation of goods throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge, Gross Tete and Opelousas Railroad was chartered in 1853 and had a terminal across the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge in the area that would eventually become Port Allen and a ferry would cross the river three times each day at this location to transport goods and train cars; and

WHEREAS, it was around this junction between the railroad and the ferry that Port Allen grew as the ferry would continue to operate until 1968 – carrying both vehicles and pedestrians – until the Interstate 10 bridge made the service obsolete; however, both the depot and the old ferry landing remain as historical sites within the city of Port Allen to this day; and

WHEREAS, one of the keys to the continued growth of Port Allen was the construction of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, which began in 1954; situated at the convergence of the Mississippi River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, it is now one of the ten busiest ports in the country and with the construction of the port's General Cargo Dock No.1, the Grain Elevator and the Grain Dock, Port Allen soon became a hub of local industry; and

WHEREAS, with the opening of the port, the city of Port Allen experienced a population boom in the late 1950's – with the number of residents nearly doubling and as local industries continued to grow in the area, the city's population also steadily increased before finally peaking in the 1990's; and

WHEREAS, today the city of Port Allen is known as a small, friendly community that still plays a large role in business and industry in the Baton Rouge area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the city of Port Allen and its citizenry and public officials, upon the celebration of the first centennial anniversary of the founding of the municipality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Richard Lee, mayor of the city of Port Allen.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE