

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR JOHNS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the city of Lake Charles on the celebration of its 150th anniversary.

A RESOLUTION

To commend the city of Lake Charles on the celebration of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the first people to settle the lake were Mr. and Mrs. LeBleu of Bordeaux, France in 1781, and it was known as LeBleu Settlement; and

WHEREAS, they secured their home six miles east of the present site of Lake Charles, living peacefully with several Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, other settlers ventured to the area, including Charles Sallier who married Catherine LeBleu and the couple built their home on the lake and it became known as Charlie's Lake; and

WHEREAS, by 1860, the area was being called "Charleston" or "Charles Town" and on March 7, 1861, Lake Charles was officially incorporated as the town of Charleston, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, six years after the city was incorporated, dissatisfaction over the name Charleston arose and on March 16, 1867, Charleston was renamed and incorporated as the town of Lake Charles after its founder, Charles Sallier; and

WHEREAS, the first industry in Lake Charles was lumber and exporting that commodity increased at the end of the Civil War with inexpensive pine being sought

1 throughout the United States; and

2 WHEREAS, as a result, more sawmills were being built and the 1880s saw the small
3 sawmill village develop into a boom town and grow four hundred percent; and

4 WHEREAS, in addition to the lumber industry, Lake Charles had a geographic
5 advantage for the traveling entertainment business and many traveling troupes passing
6 through the South to New Orleans and on to Galveston and Houston found Lake Charles to
7 be a good place for a one-night Sunday performance; and

8 WHEREAS, Gerstner Field, a large aviation training camp during World War I, was
9 the first military air field built in Lake Charles and in Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, it was an integral part of Lake Charles' history, employed several
11 thousand people, and graduated four hundred ninety-nine fighter pilots and aviation
12 instructors; and

13 WHEREAS, after it was closed and demolished, Lake Charles and Southwest
14 Louisiana were left with a penchant for aviation that continues to this day; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1967, a time capsule was buried during the City of Lake Charles
16 Centennial Celebration with instructions that it be opened fifty years later during the
17 sesquicentennial celebration; and

18 WHEREAS, a centennial edition of the *American Press*, a McNeese State College
19 log roster of the Newcomer's Club, a centennial program book, a centennial parade picture
20 story, centennial coins and souvenirs, and a recorded message from Governor John
21 McKeithen, Mayor James Sudduth, Police Chief J. E. Pete Stout, and state Senator Jesse
22 Knowles, are included in the time capsule; and

23 WHEREAS, in honor of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Lake Charles,
24 Louisiana, the time capsule will be opened on Saturday, April 22, 2017; and

25 WHEREAS, today the city of Lake Charles is known as a friendly community that
26 still plays a large role in business and industry in Louisiana.

27 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
28 does hereby commend the city of Lake Charles and its citizenry and public officials upon
29 the celebration of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the municipality.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

1 mayor of the city of Lake Charles.

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

	DIGEST	
SR 7 Original	2017 Regular Session	Johns
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