

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Louisiana State University Shreveport (LSUS) upon the celebration of its golden anniversary and to extend congratulations to its student body, faculty, administration, and alumni for fifty years of academic excellence afforded to northwest Louisiana and the state.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens of the Shreveport-Bossier community commemorate the founding of LSU Shreveport from its humble origins as a community college to its present status as a professional development institution of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, the concept originated in 1936 when the Caddo Parish Police Jury passed a resolution to request the establishment of a branch of the LSU system in Shreveport; those progressive leaders addressed the necessity of postsecondary education to maximize the growth potential and increase the economic opportunity of the region; and

WHEREAS, with the enactment of Act 41 of 1964, authored by Representative A. D. Brown and co-authored by Senator Jackson B. Davis and others, the state legislature proposed the creation of LSUS, and the LSU Board of Supervisors acted to establish the Shreveport branch of the system in 1965 as a two-year associate degree program; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s the Shreveport-Bossier economy began to expand exponentially, and there was an imperative need for a well-trained workforce nurtured by higher education resources; and

WHEREAS, during that time, William "Bill" Bronson, editor and publisher of The Shreveport Times, led the fight to elevate LSUS to the status of an undergraduate degree-granting institution, and in 1972, it became a four-year university; in May 1975, the first undergraduate degrees were conferred at spring commencement ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald E. Shipp was appointed as the first dean and later served as

the first chancellor; also serving as chancellors were Dr. E. Grady Bogue, Dr. John Darling, Dr. Vincent Marsala, and today, Chancellor Larry Clark; each leader has worked diligently to expand the goals and objectives of the university and to improve academic departments, student environment, and campus infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, when classes began in the fall of 1967, student enrollment was eight hundred; presently with a student body of five thousand, LSUS has grown to encompass over twenty undergraduate subject areas, twelve masters programs, and a doctorate degree in education; and

WHEREAS, utilizing cooperative endeavors with industry and local government, LSUS continues to leverage the synergy such partnerships provide to enhance progressive economic growth for the state and the nation by the production of a well-trained workforce of educators, health care professionals, and other specialties equipped for the challenges of the ever-changing workplace; and

WHEREAS, LSUS possesses an impressive list of vital disciplines including humanities, sciences, education, social work, and criminal justice, and in conjunction with the LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, also provides academic degrees in a myriad of health sciences; in particular, public health, community health, health education specialties, school psychology, and sports medicine; and

WHEREAS, LSUS has expanded into many new age curricula realms, such as biological data research, information technology, and cyber innovation and has a nationally recognized online MBA program; and

WHEREAS, housed in the Noel Memorial Library, the new LSUS Student Success Center is a transformative learning space; it facilitates a technology and flexible learning environment that embraces diverse collaborative learning venues; and

WHEREAS, extracurricular student opportunities include a nationally ranked debate team and successful athletic teams that include men's and women's soccer, baseball, basketball, track, and weightlifting; and

WHEREAS, LSUS has, as its primary focus, a "student-centric" approach to higher learning, with keen attention paid to the attraction, retention, and graduation of its student populace; and

WHEREAS, throughout its fifty year history, LSUS has promoted a familial atmosphere between the student body, faculty, and administration, and seeks to strike a balance between academics, athletics, and community service to provide the best possible opportunities in postsecondary education of its students; and

WHEREAS, in 2017-2018 as the university fetes a year-long golden anniversary celebration, Louisiana State University Shreveport stands with the state of Louisiana at the threshold of tremendous economic prosperity and provides the vital academic acumen needed to address the challenges of the present as well as those social and economic demands of the future.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the student body, faculty, administration, and alumni of Louisiana State University Shreveport (LSUS) for the fifty years of academic excellence it has provided to the citizens of the state of Louisiana and does hereby recognize the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Larry Clark, Chancellor of Louisiana State University Shreveport.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES