

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 246

BY REPRESENTATIVE PUGH

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the Tangipahoa Parish Fair as the oldest fair in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, it was in 1888 that the citizens of Tangipahoa Parish organized the first Tangipahoa Parish Fair in Amite, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in 1908 a tornado destroyed the fair ground, it was relocated to Hammond in 1910 and renamed; and

WHEREAS, while the fair was held in Hammond, it expanded its educational umbrella as a center to teach children; each Friday was known as School Day allowing free admittance to all students in the surrounding areas; special trains ran from McComb, Mississippi, Loranger, St. Tammany Parish, Livingston Parish, and St. Helena Parish to bring children to Eastside School in Hammond where they would march to the fairgrounds with banners; each school was judged on its performance and appearance; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the fair featured exhibits such as auto racing and many fairgoer's first peek at an airplane; and

WHEREAS, the fair is credited with promoting improvement of vegetation and livestock; farmers and ranchers competed for the coveted title of "Best in Show"; and

WHEREAS, after the great depression, the fair relocated to Independence as an outgrowth of their spring fair; interest was mainly local, and the fair relocated shortly thereafter, returning to its original location in Amite; and

WHEREAS, in order to secure a location, local resident Joe Binder donated fifteen acres, and buildings were erected under the supervision of the Veterans Administration; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, a grandstand and a pavilion were constructed with the allocation of funds by the state legislature; a livestock arena and a baseball diamond were also erected at the fair grounds; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, a new metal building was erected that now houses all school exhibits and more modifications including the restoration of the original building have begun; and

WHEREAS, with the changing interests, years, and locations of the fair, one thing that will never change is the love for the Tangipahoa Parish Fair; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Tangipahoa Parish Fair as the oldest fair in the state, does hereby applaud the organizers and supporters for its success, and does hereby recognize this extraordinary fair as an integral part of the culture and history of the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be presented to the Tangipahoa Parish Fair board members.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES