

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 305

BY REPRESENTATIVES DAVIS AND FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend St. James Episcopal Church on one hundred seventy-five years of worship in
Baton Rouge.

WHEREAS, two years after the 1819 incorporation of the city of Baton Rouge, a group of faith-filled residents established an Episcopal church where they could worship together; on March 16, 1820, the church was incorporated; its members met in various places, including what is currently the state capitol grounds; Margaret "Peggy" Smith Taylor was a founding member who sought permission from her husband, Garrison Commander Colonel Zachary Taylor, for space to worship at what is now known as the Pentagon Barracks; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 1844, Act No. 97 of the Legislature of Louisiana granted St. James Episcopal Church a charter to operate under the laws of the state, in communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, and subject to the Ecclesiastical government and decisions of the Bishops and Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the members of St. James Episcopal Church purchased property at the corner of Convention Street and 4th Street, formerly known as Church Street, where they built a church that was consecrated by Bishop Leonidas Polk; they have worshiped at the 4th Street location for one hundred seventy-five years; and

WHEREAS, the men and women members who contribute to what is St. James Episcopal Church today can look to the trials and triumphs of the past to chart its future; and

WHEREAS, a church that has sustained itself through fires and yellow fever epidemics, the Civil War and Reconstruction, national economic depression, segregation, and the slow and steady evolution of the world, St. James Episcopal Church has remained through all a welcoming congregation; and

WHEREAS, St. James Episcopal Church is more than a community of the faithful; it is a community of faith, and it is appropriate to recognize its one hundred seventy-five years of worship in Baton Rouge.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend, upon the anniversary of one hundred seventy-five years of worship in Baton Rouge, the membership of St. James Episcopal Church and does hereby extend best hopes and prayers that they will continue steadfast in the faith for the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the rector of St. James Episcopal Church.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES