

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Pinecrest Supports and Services Center in Pineville, Louisiana, on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary.

WHEREAS, Pinecrest Supports and Services Center's story begins in 1884, nearly forty years prior to its opening, when one hundred twenty-nine patients were transferred from New Orleans Asylum and admitted into East Louisiana Hospital; these individuals all possessed some form of what is now known as an intellectual disability, and asylums did not provide the care they required; and

WHEREAS, thirty years after the transfer, the superintendent of East Louisiana Hospitals recommended the establishment of a specialized facility to provide treatment and care for patients with these types of disabilities; the request was granted by the legislature with Act No. 141 of 1918, which created Pinecrest; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, one thousand acres of land was purchased from Beauregard Development Company utilizing portions of Camp Beauregard that were used during World War I; on December 21 of that year, Pinecrest opened its facility to thirty-seven patients with specialized medical needs; its total budget for its first year of operations was \$50,000, and the facility was completely self-sufficient with a working vegetable farm, dairy farm operation, and livestock such as chickens, hogs, and cattle; and

WHEREAS, the success of Pinecrest's mission to provide adequate care for individuals with specialized medical needs was evidenced by the increased funding the facility was given, which allowed it to evolve from a subsistence farming operation into one that purchased necessities such as food; this allowed the facility to gradually repurpose land to accommodate a vastly larger array of patient services; and

WHEREAS, today, Pinecrest operates on seven hundred eighty-four acres of land and includes an on-ground bakery, a greenhouse, a canteen, a medical observation unit, a fully-functional dental clinic, a baseball field, a barn with pet therapy offerings, a pool, a gym, a school, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Pinecrest School is a year-round school operated by the Louisiana Department of Education that focuses on the specific curricula needs for the residents and patients; the school also offers a GED program for adult patients of the facility; and

WHEREAS, Pinecrest's campus also contains forty residential units; there are twelve day-service buildings where skill acquisition courses, active treatment and training, and vocational learning opportunities are offered; the facility has various work training options with the campus canteen, bakery, on-grounds delivery service, kitchen, and greenhouse; additionally, Pinecrest offers its patients further work training opportunities through contracts with community-based agencies; and

WHEREAS, Pinecrest Supports and Services Center is a truly invaluable asset to the state of Louisiana, and it is most deserving of the highest recognition for providing the necessary care to individuals with intellectual disabilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Pinecrest Supports and Services Center in Pineville, Louisiana, on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary; does hereby further recognize and record its impact on the progress made in the treatment of persons with intellectual disabilities; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that it receive the support needed to continue its inspiring mission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the administrator of Pinecrest Supports and Services Center in Pineville, Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES