

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY REPRESENTATIVE KNOX

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1973 Up Stairs Lounge fire in the French Quarter in New Orleans.

WHEREAS, in 1973, the city of New Orleans experienced a devastating fire that remains the deadliest in the city's history; this tragic event unfolded at 604 Iberville Street, in the heart of the French Quarter, at the Up Stairs Lounge; and

WHEREAS, serving as a sanctuary of love and acceptance in New Orleans, the Up Stairs Lounge was tragically transformed into a symbol of sorrow and exclusion in a mere nineteen minutes; the fire claimed the lives of thirty-two individuals, hospitalized fifteen others, and left an indelible mark on the city's LGBTQ+ community that forever altered its course; and

WHEREAS, regrettably, local police at the time did not respond to the fire with the urgency it deserved, and elected officials remained publicly silent about the unnecessary tragedy; adding further anguish, Archbishop Philip Hannan denied the victims Catholic funerals, compounding the pain experienced by the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, the 1973 arson at the Up Stairs Lounge remains unsolved, despite being the deadliest crime perpetrated against the LGBTQ+ community in American history until the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1973 Up Stairs Lounge fire in the French Quarter in New Orleans; does hereby express profound regret and immense sorrow for the suffering caused by this horrible tragedy and official responses to it, and does hereby express sincerest wishes that we continue to grow as a state in our acceptance and support of our fellow Louisianians.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE