

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 145

BY REPRESENTATIVES SMITH AND COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana, upon the celebration of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana, has a long and storied history in this state and it is appropriate to commend it upon the historic occasion of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana roots of the Lodge can be traced back to 1849, when several black Masons in New Orleans petitioned for dispensation to open a new Lodge in the city, thereby creating the Richmond Lodge in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana was founded in New Orleans on January 5, 1863, after which it adopted the name "Eureka Grand Lodge" and was incorporated in 1869 as "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Louisiana"; and

WHEREAS, a critical and formative period in both the Lodge's history and the history of the Masonic organization involved the fight over the sovereignty of the state jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Eureka Grand Lodge, later renamed the "Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Louisiana", fought valiantly for the sovereignty of the state jurisdictions and ultimately severed ties with the National Grand Lodge over the issue; and

WHEREAS, throughout the fight over state jurisdiction sovereignty and the ensuing struggles, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge remained stalwart and no Lodge that remained faithful to it lost a charter during this tumultuous period; and

WHEREAS, this indomitable spirit that has characterized the history of the Lodge survives today, and the Lodge remains a cornerstone of Louisiana's civic and social improvement, supporting such institutions and organizations as the Red Cross, the Urban League, and the National Negro College Fund, as well as being actively involved in vocational guidance endeavors to educate parents, children, and teachers on job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, such an historic and esteemed organization as the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana, deserves recognition for its history of civic and social leadership and charitable endeavors and upon the joyous occasion of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana, upon the celebration of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary, does hereby record for posterity all of the service and contributions that this exceptional organization has made to the state of Louisiana, and does hereby express to all Masons in the state of Louisiana full measures of success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES