

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY SENATORS CROWE AND MORRELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend the ExxonMobil Chalmette Refinery for one hundred years of operation in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, and the commitment to Louisiana demonstrated by such a long-standing presence in the state and to recognize Monday, April 20, 2015, as "ExxonMobil Day" at the Louisiana State Senate.

WHEREAS, the Chalmette Refinery was constructed in 1915 and is located on four hundred acres of the former De La Ronde Plantation near Chalmette Historical Park, the site of the last major battle of the War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans, a significant victory for the young United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the current refinery is a mid-sized facility that receives crude primarily from wells off Louisiana's Gulf of Mexico coast and from Venezuela because the facility is uniquely equipped to refine the heavy crude oil produced in Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, the Chalmette Refinery, a joint venture of affiliates Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. and ExxonMobil, employs approximately one thousand employees and contractors; and

WHEREAS, the refinery employs a dedicated and highly-skilled workforce responsible for operating the facility, twenty-four hours each day of the year, who also are involved members of the community of St. Bernard Parish and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, in the post-Hurricane Katrina world of St. Bernard Parish, the Chalmette Refinery has been a focus for community survival and rebuilding, at one point serving as the command post for hurricane response and rescue due to its advantageous location on high ground in the parish; and

WHEREAS, once attentions turned to rebuilding the parish, ExxonMobil and the ExxonMobil Foundation donated twenty-three million dollars for hurricane recovery for the entire New Orleans area, with more than four million dollars for St. Bernard Parish schools alone, and two million dollars for a new cultural arts center for the school district; and

WHEREAS, as the largest employer and taxpayer in St. Bernard Parish, ExxonMobil understands its role as the leader of efforts by employers in the parish to both enrich and better the lives of those working in and living near the Chalmette Refinery; and

WHEREAS, the ExxonMobil employees at the refinery contribute to the community through volunteer participation in a wide range of charitable organizations, including the Greater New Orleans United Way, the Nunez Community College Process Technology Program, the St. Bernard Chapter of the American Red Cross Super CPR Saturday, and the Special Olympics; and

WHEREAS, the Chalmette Refinery helps fund the Green Team Summer Youth Employment Program and the New Orleans Ballet after-school dance program in Chalmette and Algiers, Louisiana, helping to enrich the cultural life of St. Bernard Parish; and

WHEREAS, the refinery also involves itself in environmental projects that better the lives of the residents of St. Bernard, especially through the provision of funds and resources for the care of the Pakenham live oak trees, which have been a project of the refinery for more than twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, ExxonMobil and the Chalmette refinery also focus on improving science and math education, encouraging employees to devote time to such activities as the Science Ambassador Program, tours of the refinery, Engineering Week activities, and science fair judging; and

WHEREAS, the original Chalmette refinery was built at a time when the primary product was kerosene, used for lighting in homes and businesses, but with the discovery of oil and the growing popularity of automobiles, gasoline soon became the primary product of the refinery; and

WHEREAS, with the advent of gasoline engines in both automobiles and boats, the refinery found a customer base in fueling boats used to deliver produce and fruits along the Mississippi River, particularly those boats owned by the Vaccaro brothers, Joseph, Felis, and Luca, who purchased the refinery and changed its name to the Chalmette Oil and Refining Company; and

WHEREAS, the Vaccaro brothers owned the refinery until 1944 when it was sold to Bay Petroleum, which, in 1953, sold the facility to Tennessee Gas Company, which later

became Tenneco Oil Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, Tenneco Oil sold the refinery to the Mobil Corporation, a corporation that merged with Exxon in 1998, thus bringing the refinery to the newly combined corporation, ExxonMobil; and

WHEREAS, the designation of ExxonMobil Day at the Louisiana State Senate recognizes the contributions of ExxonMobil and its thousands of employees and retirees to the vibrant life in Louisiana and seeks to spotlight the volunteer activities and the commitment to bettering life for all Louisiana citizens through nonprofit organizations that range from local food banks to the cultural activities and festivals that seek to celebrate life in the unique state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the ExxonMobil Chalmette Refinery for one hundred years of operation in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, and the commitment to Louisiana demonstrated by such a long-standing presence in the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Monday, April 20, 2015, as "ExxonMobil Day" at the Louisiana State Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the ExxonMobil Chalmette Refinery.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE