

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY REPRESENTATIVES JAMES, BADON, BARROW, WESLEY BISHOP, BOUIE, BURRELL, COX, FRANKLIN, GAINES, HALL, HONORE, HUNTER, JACKSON, JEFFERSON, TERRY LANDRY, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, SMITH, THIERRY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS BROOME, BROWN, DORSEY-COLOMB, GALLOT, GUILLORY, MORRELL, MURRAY, PETERSON, AND TARVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Wednesday, April 22, 2015, as Southern University Day at the state capitol and to commend and congratulate the Southern University System on celebrating its one hundred thirty-five year history of providing higher educational opportunities to African American students; on leading the way in making such opportunities available to students of all races and all backgrounds; on preparing and nurturing many influential leaders in the state and in the country; and on playing a critically important role in the development of Louisiana and the nation.

WHEREAS, the Southern University System began in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1880, when a group of black politicians led by former United States Senator P.B.S. Pinchback of New Orleans, joined by T.T. Allain of Iberville Parish and Henry Demas of St. John the Baptist Parish, petitioned the state constitutional convention to establish a school of higher learning for "colored" people, and, as a result, Act 87 of 1880 was enacted and Southern University came into existence; and

WHEREAS, the passage of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 provided for the establishment of an agricultural and mechanical department for African Americans with support from the state and federal governments and, as a result, Southern University was reorganized as a land-grant institution with separate divisions for agriculture and mechanical arts; and

WHEREAS, the university moved from New Orleans to Baton Rouge in 1912 pursuant to Act 118 of 1912 and opened on its new site in 1914 under the leadership of Dr. J.S. Clark where its curriculum was expanded through two-year college degrees; and

WHEREAS, from a school with twelve students, five faculty members, a ten thousand dollar budget, and a vision, Southern University has developed into a university system that is a national treasure with five campuses offering baccalaureate degree programs, associate degree programs, master degree programs, doctoral programs, and a law degree program; and

WHEREAS, although the leaders of this state, nation, and the world who were educated at one of the Southern University System campuses are too numerous to innumerate, it is important to distinguish that Southern University's School of Nursing has twice been awarded school of the year and its teaching staff is among the most recognized professionals in their fields of study; graduates of the College of Engineering play significant, creative, and administrative roles at companies such as IBM, ExxonMobil, Entergy, Caterpillar Corp., Raytheon, Dow Chemical, and Chevron; graduates of the College of Business are employed at many of the top 40 corporations in the world; and Southern University scientists have conducted research that has become useful applications in the study of outer space, the preservation of food, protection of trees, soil and water, along with high-speed information networks; and

WHEREAS, ten Southern University graduates have earned the rank of General in the United States Army and one in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, many of those persons who are grateful for the opportunity and education provided them by Southern University serve as elected members of this Louisiana Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Southern University merits a special measure of recognition upon the celebration of its exemplary education tradition proving that a dream in 1880 has today become a living legacy of determination, commitment, and success that now spans one hundred thirty-five years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Wednesday, April 22, 2015, as Southern University Day at the state capitol, does hereby recognize and record for posterity the pride and honor that Southern University brings to the state of Louisiana, does hereby express sincere appreciation for its singular legacy of excellence, and does hereby extend to the entire Southern University family best wishes upon this memorable day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the Southern University System.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE