

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 213

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A RESOLUTION

To commend the state of Israel, commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the reunification of the city of Jerusalem, and designate June 7, 2017, as Jerusalem Day at the Louisiana House of Representatives.

WHEREAS, the land of Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish people, where their spiritual, religious, and national identity has been formed, where they have achieved independence, and where they have created a culture of national and universal significance; and

WHEREAS, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob promised in Genesis 12:3 to bless those who bless Israel through the promise He made to Abraham: "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee; and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed"; and

WHEREAS, on May 14, 1948, the provisional government of Israel proclaimed the rebirth of the state of Israel and on that same date, the United States of America, in the person of President Harry S. Truman, recognized the provisional Jewish government as the *de facto* authority of the Jewish state of Israel, thereby fulfilling the Biblical prophesy in Isaiah 66:8 that the nation would be (re)born in a single day; and

WHEREAS, Israel established a form of government based on the precepts of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew prophets upholding the full social and political equality of all her citizens without distinction of race, creed, or sex and guaranteeing full freedom of conscience, worship, education, and culture; and

WHEREAS, Israel became the foremost leader in the Middle East in recognizing the basic equality and dignity of women, thereby providing full and equal opportunities for women to vote, hold elected office, own property, and pursue and engage in any occupation, profession, or trade; and

WHEREAS, for more than three thousand years, since King David of Israel moved the capital of Israel to Jerusalem, the Jewish people have had a lasting presence in that ancient city; and

WHEREAS, some of the fiercest battles of Israel's 1948 War of Independence were fought over the city of Jerusalem; for Jews, the victory for independence was tarnished because the city of Jerusalem remained divided for nineteen years until the Six-Day War in 1967; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 1967, the third day of the Six-Day War, soldiers of Israel's Defense Forces entered the old city of Jerusalem, which over the centuries has come to symbolize the love of the Jewish people for their ancient homeland, and reunited the city, making it once again an integral part of the Jewish state; and

WHEREAS, the Christian religion owes its beginnings to the Jewish religion because the founder of Christianity is the prominent Jewish Rabbi Jesus Christ, who declared, "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22); and

WHEREAS, the Jewish people have also given to Christianity all of the following: the Sacred Hebrew Bible, the prophets, the mother (Mary) and foster father (Joseph) of Jesus, the twelve disciples of the Gospels, and most of the apostles of the first century church; and

WHEREAS, as elected representatives of the people of Louisiana, the members of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana wish to join with the people of Israel in sharing their fervent hope and profound desire for an enduring peace for the state of Israel and its eternal, indivisible, and sacred capital, Jerusalem.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the state of Israel; does hereby commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the reunification of the city of Jerusalem; and does hereby designate June 7, 2017, as Jerusalem Day at the Louisiana House of Representatives.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES