

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

BY SENATORS ALARIO, ADLEY, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, GIROD JACKSON, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LIGI, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MACK, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS AND WILLMOTT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commemorate the Louisiana Bicentennial of statehood and to encourage civic participation in local activities and statewide observances throughout the anniversary year of 2012.

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana commemorates the bicentennial of Louisiana statehood and recognizes this extraordinary opportunity to celebrate the history, culture, and heritage that makes Louisiana like no other state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout Louisiana this memorable occasion of prominent historic significance will be observed by ceremonies, by both state and local governments, societies, and associations; with a year long celebration of events in every corner of the state, as well as with meritorious scholarship and educational opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the calendar for 2012 is festooned with festivals, museum collections, historic re-enactments, homecomings, displays of artifacts and documents; plus the creation

of folk art and memorabilia rendered to denote this important date; and

WHEREAS, since European explorers such as, DeSoto, LaSalle, Iberville, and Bienville, first set foot on the fertile soil that would become known as Louisiana, the state's future has been wrought by its wealth of natural resources, its strategic location along the Mississippi River as a navigable gateway into the North American continent, and its potential for habitation and commercial venture; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana and its people possess a lengthy and colorful history that began with indigenous Indian nations, French and Spanish colonial rulers, a territory within the Louisiana Purchase, formal admittance to statehood on April 30, 1812, as the eighteenth state in an ever expanding nation, the sorrows of Civil War, the prosperity of the Industrial Age, and the celebration in April 1912 of the Louisiana Centennial; and

WHEREAS, one hundred years ago Governor Jared Sanders proclaimed that all citizens commemorate the historic event with appropriate ceremony, 'asking that all patriotic Louisianians observe this anniversary', and he also declared a school holiday; and

WHEREAS, during the main celebration that was held in New Orleans, the city's mayor, Martin Behrman, made a profound statement in his Centennial address that rings true today, "*No state of the Union has a greater future before it than Louisiana, an in caring for the present and working for the future, we must not forget the glories of the past; because if we are not true to the memories of the past, we cannot be true to ourselves,*"; and

WHEREAS, present day celebrations offer a chance to rediscover Louisiana history, explore its culture, and contribute to its historic preservation efforts through music, language, art, cuisine, craft, and dance; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana holds a plethora of one of a kind customs that have been passed down from one generation to the next; distinctions in American Indian, Acadian and Creole heritage, religious traditions, architecture, and two separate French language dialects, all are a reflection of the vast diversity of culture unified in one region; and

WHEREAS, the citizenry welcomes every visitor to sample Life in Louisiana, to listen to the music of Jazz and Bluegrass, to taste fresh seafood and Cajun cuisine, to fish the waters and to hunt the forests of Sportsman's Paradise, and to take note of the history of this beautiful land; an open invitation to experience its vitality and hospitality, first-hand; and

WHEREAS, generations, yet unborn, shall celebrate Louisiana's Tricentennial of statehood in April 2112, in a world forged by today's generation; and as in 1912, Louisiana is ripe with potential for further economic growth and prosperity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the Louisiana Bicentennial of statehood, April 30, 2012, and encourages participation in local activities and statewide observances by all its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the singular and unique status that the state of Louisiana holds within the Union and does hereby commend the citizens of Louisiana for their extraordinary contributions to the betterment of their state and for their joie de vivre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to The Honorable Bobby Jindal, Governor of Louisiana, The Honorable Jay Dardenne, Lieutenant Governor, and Ms. Julie Vezinot, director of the Louisiana Bicentennial Commission.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES