

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR PEACOCK AND REPRESENTATIVE CARMODY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Women's Department Club of Shreveport upon its one hundredth anniversary and to note the occasion of "A Century of Women" celebration on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

WHEREAS, established in 1919, when there were limited educational opportunities for females, the Women's Department Club began as an offshoot of the Shreveport Women's Club; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the Women's Department Club has proved to be a setting for creative activity where women may explore new learning experiences, cultivate mental and spiritual growth, and flourish in their environment; and

WHEREAS, the club evolved into five broad groups or departments with each focused on a particular interest, such as literature, art, education, gardening, and music; and

WHEREAS, one of its co-founders, Katherine Jackson French, had earned a Doctorate in English Literature from Columbia University and had completed post-doctoral studies at Yale University; and her chosen career was that of a teacher of literature at Centenary College of Louisiana during the 1920s; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. French became an articulate educator for the first established department, which was literature; she lectured for seventeen years in the Shreve Memorial Library in the area now known as the Children's Room; and

WHEREAS, as interest and membership grew, the need for a building of their own became of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, the Georgian-style clubhouse was designed by architect Clarence F. King, built at 802 Margaret Place, and opened in 1925; and its beauty and historic significance has garnered placement on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the clubhouse has feted countless classes and lectures on a wide variety of subjects and has retained a colorful oral history passed from one generation to another; and

WHEREAS, within its doors, the beautifully appointed furnishings provide the perfect setting for weddings, receptions, and photography sessions; and

WHEREAS, the auditorium has been the showcase for concerts, recitals, plays, and film premieres, and has hosted notable personalities such as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, news commentator Edward R. Murrow, poet Robert Frost, film actress Katherine Hepburn, and classical pianist Van Cliburn; and

WHEREAS, a schedule of exciting events is offered throughout the year that includes book reviews, fashion shows, socials, and educational programs concerning art, architecture, music, ethnic cuisine, and gourmet cooking techniques; and

WHEREAS, the club has a lengthy history of active community participation such as hosting bazaars, dances, and teas as fundraisers, and during World War II, raising over one million dollars in United States war bonds, and purchasing two airplanes for the United States Army Air Corps located at Barksdale Field; and

WHEREAS, presently, the Woman's Department Club contributes to the community by supporting local arts and artists, Creswell Elementary School, the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, and the pediatric center at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2019, the Woman's Department Club shall commemorate its first one hundred years with a spectacular event, "A Century of Women" and the attendees are requested to dress in vintage-era cocktail fashions from the past century; and

WHEREAS, the gala evening shall feature vocal performances by soprano Dr. Gail J. Odom, Professor Emeritus from Centenary College of Louisiana; vocalist Seva May; and the Shreveport-Bossier Choral Ensemble; and

WHEREAS, keynote speakers will reveal the elegant history of the club, its founders, and distinguished members; and

WHEREAS, the heritage and traditions of the Women's Department Club instill in its members a commitment to personal growth through education and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, furthered by intellectual development and social stimulation, the Women's Department Club begins a second century as a fountainhead of progressive thought and positive action that is focused on the strength of women.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Women's Department Club of Shreveport upon its one hundredth anniversary and note the occasion of "A Century of Women" celebration on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate the Women's Department Club on its lasting legacy of enrichment and service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Brenda Bailey Traylor, President and Sandra Harrold, Centennial Committee Chairman of the Women's Department Club of Shreveport.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES