

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY SENATOR JOHNS

A RESOLUTION

To commend the city of Lake Charles on the celebration of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the first people to settle the lake were Mr. and Mrs. LeBleu of Bordeaux, France in 1781, and it was known as LeBleu Settlement; and

WHEREAS, they secured their home six miles east of the present site of Lake Charles, living peacefully with several Indian tribes; and

WHEREAS, other settlers ventured to the area, including Charles Sallier who married Catherine LeBleu and the couple built their home on the lake and it became known as Charlie's Lake; and

WHEREAS, by 1860, the area was being called "Charleston" or "Charles Town" and on March 7, 1861, Lake Charles was officially incorporated as the town of Charleston, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, six years after the city was incorporated, dissatisfaction over the name Charleston arose and on March 16, 1867, Charleston was renamed and incorporated as the town of Lake Charles after its founder, Charles Sallier; and

WHEREAS, the first industry in Lake Charles was lumber and exporting that commodity increased at the end of the Civil War with inexpensive pine being sought throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, as a result, more sawmills were being built and the 1880s saw the small sawmill village develop into a boom town and grow four hundred percent; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the lumber industry, Lake Charles had a geographic advantage for the traveling entertainment business and many traveling troupes passing through the South to New Orleans and on to Galveston and Houston found Lake Charles to be a good place for a one-night Sunday performance; and

WHEREAS, Gerstner Field, a large aviation training camp during World War I, was the first military air field built in Lake Charles and in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, it was an integral part of Lake Charles' history, employed several thousand people, and graduated four hundred ninety-nine fighter pilots and aviation instructors; and

WHEREAS, after it was closed and demolished, Lake Charles and Southwest Louisiana were left with a penchant for aviation that continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, a time capsule was buried during the City of Lake Charles Centennial Celebration with instructions that it be opened fifty years later during the sesquicentennial celebration; and

WHEREAS, a centennial edition of the *American Press*, a McNeese State College log roster of the Newcomer's Club, a centennial program book, a centennial parade picture story, centennial coins and souvenirs, and a recorded message from Governor John McKeithen, Mayor James Sudduth, Police Chief J. E. Pete Stout, and state Senator Jesse Knowles, are included in the time capsule; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of Lake Charles, Louisiana, the time capsule will be opened on Saturday, April 22, 2017; and

WHEREAS, today the city of Lake Charles is known as a friendly community that still plays a large role in business and industry in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the city of Lake Charles and its citizenry and public officials upon the celebration of the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the municipality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of the city of Lake Charles.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE