

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 27

BY REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES OWEN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Vernon Parish and its parish seat, Leesville, on the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of their founding.

WHEREAS, on March 30, 1871, the Louisiana General Assembly passed an act creating Vernon Parish in west-central Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Parish was formed out of parts of Rapides, Sabine, and Natchitoches Parishes in an area that was at the center of a late eighteenth century dispute between the United States and Spain; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Parish is the largest parish in Louisiana in terms of land area and its western border lies along the Sabine River; and

WHEREAS, Leesville was designated as the parish seat of Vernon from its inception; however, the city was not incorporated until February 15, 1900; the city was founded by Dr. Edmund E. Smart, who donated land from his plantation for the development of the parish seat; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas City Southern Railroad was built through Vernon Parish in 1897; the arrival of the railway brought significant growth and prosperity to the area and led to the parish becoming one of the major lumber producers in the state of Louisiana through the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, the pine forests of Vernon Parish and the surrounding areas were the site of the "Louisiana Maneuvers" held by the United States Army General Headquarters in 1941; these were the largest training exercises ever conducted by the United States Army, and they led to the establishment of Fort Polk, which initially served as a base for participating soldiers; and

WHEREAS, since World War II, Fort Polk has been an invaluable asset to the Vernon Parish economy; it is the nexus between the Leesville area and the fivefold growth of its population after the fort's opening; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Parish and the city of Leesville are, without question, filled with rich history, and both the parish and the city are most deserving of recognition on the occasion of their sesquicentennial anniversaries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Vernon Parish and its parish seat, Leesville, on the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of their founding; does hereby recognize Vernon Parish as an area rich with American and Louisiana history; and does hereby extend sincere wishes that the parish and its parish seat continue their impressive progress for another one hundred fifty years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the police jury of Vernon Parish and to the mayor of Leesville.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE