

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 85

BY REPRESENTATIVE SIMON

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Tuesday, May 7, 2013, as March of Dimes Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes was founded in 1938 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he was inspired by his personal experience with the poliomyelitis (polio) disease; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes supported the development of the polio vaccine that has eradicated the disease from the United States; and

WHEREAS, the same polio vaccine protects babies today; and

WHEREAS, due in large part to the work of the March of Dimes, there has not been a single outbreak of polio in our country in more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, for the March of Dimes, the polio vaccine was only the beginning; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1938, the March of Dimes has helped to stamp out rubella, pushed for regionalized newborn intensive care, funded the development of surfactant therapy and other life-saving treatments, promoted folic acid to prevent neural tube defects, and made newborn screening available to every baby; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes now coordinates a "National Prematurity Campaign" for stronger, healthier babies; and

WHEREAS, babies in Louisiana receive screening for twenty-nine inherited disorders; and

WHEREAS, development of the tests for four of these disorders was funded by the March of Dimes; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, between sixty-two thousand and sixty-five thousand babies are born annually, and over nine thousand of those babies are born prematurely each year; and

WHEREAS, the March of Dimes has helped each and every one of those babies through research, education, vaccines, and breakthroughs; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, March of Dimes volunteers and staff from across the state are visiting the Louisiana State Capitol to celebrate the momentous occasion of the organization's seventy-fifth anniversary, to raise awareness about the serious need to protect Louisiana babies, and to advocate for policies that improve the quality of care of newborns in this state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby welcome volunteers and staff of the March of Dimes and recognize Tuesday, May 7, 2013, as March of Dimes Day at the Louisiana State Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the state director of the March of Dimes Louisiana Chapter and the state director of program services and governmental affairs of the March of Dimes Louisiana Chapter.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES