

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY REPRESENTATIVES BACALA, BRASS, EDMONSTON, AND SCHEXNAYDER

A RESOLUTION

To commend the city of Meylan, France, on the occasion of the thirty-seventh anniversary of its twinning with its sister city of Gonzales, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, in the early 1980s, a group of teachers from St. Amant High School began taking groups of students on international field trips overseas to countries including Mexico and Canada; the experience of these trips had a profound and lasting impact on the students by introducing them to new cultures and giving them the opportunity to share their own culture abroad; and

WHEREAS, John Hebert, a field trip chaperone and husband of one of the St. Amant teachers, realized these benefits and researched the possibility of creating an organization to both introduce the world to local citizens and to introduce Gonzales, Louisiana, to the world; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hebert was referred to James Domeangeaux, founder of the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL), who suggested twinning the city of Gonzales with a compatible city in France; and

WHEREAS, after receiving support from Gonzales city councilman John Berthelot, Mr. Hebert presented the Gonzales city council with a proposal to create the Gonzales Committee on Cultural Affairs (GCCA), which received the council's approval; and

WHEREAS, the city of Gonzales was assisted by France-Louisiane, an organization headquartered in Paris, in choosing Meylan, France, to be its sister city; the two cities share similarities in population and proximity to the capital of their respective province/state; Meylan is nestled in the French Alps near Grenoble while Gonzales is in Plantation-Bayou country near Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, John Berthelot, who had become mayor of Gonzales, led a delegation, which included Councilman Dalton Marchand and around twenty Ascension Parish residents, that traveled to Meylan in 1984; Claude Mousseley served as first president of the Meylan Twinning Committee, and over the last three decades, Ascension Parish locals and French nationals from Meylan have built lifelong relationships and made connections that have resulted in international career paths for some; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the city of Meylan are most deserving of the highest recognition for their inspiring efforts to share Louisiana's culture abroad.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the city of Meylan, France, on the occasion of the thirty-seventh anniversary of its twinning with its sister city of Gonzales, Louisiana, and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that other Louisiana and French cities follow this example and continue to share their rich cultures with each other.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES