

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the membership of the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley upon the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of its Shreveport Scottish Rite Cathedral.

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley of master masons and officers are composed of four distinct sections that include the Shreveport Lodge of Perfection, the Chapter of Rose Croix, the Council of Kadosh, and the Shreveport Consistory, which are ordered as the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction, Orient of Louisiana, and Valley of Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, Scottish Rite and Freemasonry are woven into the rich history of the founding fathers of the state of Louisiana and the nation, and the legacy of masonic temples can be traced back, farther still, to its origins in sixteenth century Europe; and

WHEREAS, on March 6, 1910, a gathering of Scottish Rite masons petitioned for the establishment of a new lodge that would become the L. C. Allen Lodge of Perfection; these founding thirty-second degree masons were L. E. Thomas, V. L. McCarty, S. J. B. Whited, A. T. Kahn, Marx M. Levy, A. W. Cheesman, E. R. Bernstein, H. H. Bain, H. I. Hardy, J. J. Lyons, and P. B. Stedman; and

WHEREAS, soon the idea of a flagship masonic cathedral was conceived and executed; designed by noted local architect and mason, Edward F. Neild, the building expressed the Beaux Arts style with its cornerstone laid in 1915; the cornerstone has an atypical setting in the northwest corner of the site to facilitate greater visibility by the public; and

WHEREAS, at a final cost of \$186,500, its dedication ceremony was held on November 12, 1917, amid great fanfare, and the occasion was feted with dances and music recitals accompanied by two pipe organs that are still operational today; the cathedral

remains a majestic architectural wonder that was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986; and

WHEREAS, the following officers were elected to serve as the first official family of the L. C. Allen Lodge of Perfection: E. R. Bernstein, Venerable Master; L. E. Thomas, Senior Warden; T. B. Chase, Junior Warden; David B. Samuel, Secretary; A. T. Kahn, Treasurer; A. W. Cheesman, Almoner; E. Kirby Smith, Orator; and W. H. Booth, Master of Ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, Freemasonic beliefs are grounded in the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, the immortality of the soul, and the steadfastness of one's accepted faith; and

WHEREAS, the Scottish Rite is a fraternity whose members are drawn from Freemasons and whose integrity and good character are paramount in daily life without the stigma of prejudice to race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or nationality and whose duty is to foster and promote the intangible values of trust, morality, and justice; and

WHEREAS, the Scottish Rite Cathedral is one of the most historic and architecturally beautiful buildings in the south; its appointments include a three-tiered auditorium, a marble lobby, a pair of marble staircases, banquet hall, DeMolay room, masonic library, and classrooms for speech therapy; it is the oldest building in downtown Shreveport that has never changed ownership; and

WHEREAS, the cathedral has both modern amenities and well-preserved historic applications; among these classic appointments are ninety-two original, hand-painted background scenes or drops that are utilized on stage during degree presentations to convey masonic symbolism; these drops are enhanced by a wardrobe of pristine original costumes; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Cathedral facilitates the needs of the community as a reception hall for weddings, musical performances, banquets, and black tie events; it has even been used as an authentic period movie set for the film industry; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley provides opportunities to expand masonic knowledge and education, to contribute to the improvement of families and communities, to encourage productive citizenship, and to improve the lives of children

through its various charities, such as RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center; along with its founders, Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley assisted in the establishment of Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Shreveport, the first of its kind in North America; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of its next one hundred years of continued service to the community and to Freemasonry, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley will ensconce a time capsule that shall contain programs, lapel pins, coins, and memorabilia to be unearthed in another century.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of its Shreveport Scottish Rite Cathedral and does hereby commend its status as a historic landmark and as a source of great pride in the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Gary Gribble, secretary of the Shreveport Scottish Rite Temple.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES