

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 48

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc. on celebrating their ninetieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League welcomes all women who value their mission and are committed to sustaining inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Junior League volunteers provide approximately four thousand volunteer hours annually devoted to its community projects; and

WHEREAS, on October 17, 1930, in the St. Mark's Parish House, ninety-eight young women heard the reading of the proposed constitution and bylaws of the Junior Service League, which three years later became the Junior League of Shreveport, Inc.; instrumental in organizing the group were Mrs. Douglas A. Lee, Mrs. S.G. Sample, and Mrs. Wesley E. Wheless; Mrs. Wiltz Ledbetter and Miss Elsie Jones assisted in organizing procedure; the group concentrated primarily on social service, and among its first activities were social casework, the maintenance of two clothing centers for the needy, bookbinding, and braille transcription; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League's first project was the organization, with the help of other community leaders, of the Shreveport Family Welfare Association, which later formed the nucleus of the Community Chest, now known as the United Way; it was this constructive action that brought about the acceptance of the league into membership in the Association of Junior Leagues of America in February 1933; and

WHEREAS, Junior League of Shreveport, Inc. undertook its first major project, the establishment of the Children's Service Bureau, now called the Family and Children's Service Bureau, to provide casework and social work to needy children and their families,

and the community assumed responsibility for this service in 1942; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League adopted the Caddo-Bossier Association for Retarded Children (C-BARC) occupation center as a project in 1956 in order to provide evaluation, training, and services for intellectually and developmentally impaired people who were capable of eventually becoming self-supporting citizens in the community; because of matching federal funds, the association was able to provide training for people between the ages of sixteen and thirty-six; the Caddo-Bossier Association for Retarded Children is now known as The Arc of Caddo-Bossier and is a United Way agency; and

WHEREAS, the problems of the aging were becoming apparent in Shreveport in 1960, and the Junior League joined the Community Council of Caddo and Bossier parishes in an extensive survey of resources available to the elderly; as a result of these findings, the Council for the Aging was established in 1966; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 the Junior League helped establish the Mollie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Center, a center which grew out of Junior League studies that established the need for a comprehensive facility for treatment and diagnostic services for children and adults with speech or hearing impairments and other communicative disorders, and the center operates to this day; and

WHEREAS, in 1974 the Junior League committed twenty-four thousand dollars to start Rutherford House, a residential treatment center for eight to ten girls between the ages of twelve and seventeen who had come to the attention of the juvenile justice system in the area; and

WHEREAS, in August 1975, Rutherford House, Inc. expanded to include a home for boys called Olive Branch which housed ten boys; in the spring of 1976, Rutherford House II opened for girls; this center had residency facilities for twelve girls; the average term of residence for boys and girls was four months, and follow-up help was provided for an indefinite period; Rutherford House is still in operation; and

WHEREAS, the "Celebration of the Arts" is an eight-day arts festival for the ArkLaTex held in October in Festival Plaza; winner of the 1988 President's Volunteer Action Award, the Red River Revel, began in 1976 as the Junior League's bicentennial gift to the community; the first Revel was co-sponsored with the Shreveport Regional

Bicentennial Commission, and the Revel now attracts more than two hundred thousand people to Shreveport-Bossier and has a ten million dollar impact annually on the economy; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 a joint project of the Junior League and LSU Shreveport, the Pioneer Heritage Center, was constructed as an education outlet for pioneer life in Northwest Louisiana in the early 1800s; the center comprises seven plantation structures, including the Thrasher House, a log dogtrot, and Caspiana House, the big house from Caspiana Plantation, both listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in 1985 the Junior League began its largest coalition effort ever, the LightHouse; volunteers of America's LightHouse reaches out to families struggling with poverty, illiteracy, and joblessness; the LightHouse offers a wide range of programs serving children, adolescents, and their families. Its goals are educational achievement, economic self-sufficiency, and productive citizenship; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, the Junior League of Shreveport honored the community with a gift of sixty thousand dollars celebrating its sixtieth anniversary, and this gift created kid space which was a part of the exhibits when the Sci-Port Discovery Center opened; the Junior League was the proud recipient of the Volunteers of America Humanitarian Award because of its support monetarily and with trained volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League proudly received the Philanthropic Organization of the Year Award from the National Society of Fundraising Executives in 1994; and

WHEREAS, after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Junior League members went immediately to work within the community to help at emergency shelters and donated items as well as time to help comfort dislocated families; members staffed the Relief Relay Center at the former South Park Mall and also volunteered at the Humane Society; the Strategic Planning Committee made grants to many organizations that had special needs due to the increase in services provided for hurricane relief which included the Samaritan Counseling Center, Providence House, LSU Health Sciences Center Social Services Department, Rutherford House, and the YWCA; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Junior League selected Sheriff's Safety Town as the seventy-fifth anniversary recipient and donated seventy-five thousand dollars to build a

Junior League Pavilion at the facility, and in addition, Junior League volunteers coordinated Super Safety Saturday Clinics open to the public; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc. celebrated its eightieth anniversary by raising funds to plant eighty trees along Clyde Fant Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League's past projects include: Shreveport Family Welfare Association - Community Chest - United Way, Family and Children's Service Bureau, Community Council of Caddo and Bossier Parishes, Child Guidance Center, Deaf-Oral Clinic at the Line Avenue School and West Shreveport Elementary, Caddo-Bossier Association for Retarded Children, Alexander Speech Center, Council for the Aging, Voluntary Action Center, motor-language perception summer clinics, the parents' league, suitcase museum, Maddie E. Webb Speech and Hearing Center, Rutherford House, youth advocates, Caspiana House, Pioneer Heritage Center, multi-faith retirement center, parenting conference, coalition for parent education, *Kids are the Key* magazine, substance abuse five-day program, McDade House, Louisiana State Museum, the LightHouse, Shriner's Hospital PAL's program, friend-to-friend pet therapy, Volunteers of America Pregnancy Service Center, Call Three, Christus Schumpert Adult Day Health Center, Literature to Life, the Mendez Program of Substance Abuse Awareness, teen health fair, Sci-Port Discovery Center, Caddo Public Education Foundation, gang awareness video, Forgotten Student Mentoring Program, Volunteers for Youth Justice, food shuttle, HOSTS Atkins Technology Elementary School, Habitat for Humanity, Providence House, St. Catherine's Community Center summer day camp, Learning for Life, Dress for Success Shreveport-Bossier, professional women's group, the Louisiana Heart Gallery, Sutton Children's Hospital bingo, Greenwood Equine Assisted Therapy(GREAT), River Cities Youth Summit, Shriner's Children's Hospital bingo, paired reading at Atkins Technology Elementary School, Kids in the Kitchen, Between the Lines, Meeting with a Mission, bingo at University Health Hospital, and Safe Sitter; and

WHEREAS, the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc. is currently involved with projects including the Revel Artist for a Day, the Health Literacy Initiative, the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc., Mentoring Ambitious Girls to Inspire Change, the Red Apron Pantry, and Super Safety Saturdays at Sheriff's Safety Town.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc. on celebrating their ninetieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Junior League of Shreveport-Bossier, Inc.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES