

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 63

BY SENATOR WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES BACALA, BERTHELOT, CHAD BROWN, CARPENTER, STEVE CARTER, DAVIS, EDMONDS, FOIL, HAVARD, HODGES, IVEY, JAMES, JORDAN, MACK, MARCELLE, POPE, PRICE, SCHEXNAYDER, SMITH AND THIBAUT

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and its citizenry and public officials on the Bicentennial celebration of municipal incorporation and to encourage civic participation in the year-long calendar of events known as BR200.

WHEREAS, January 17, 2017, marks a historic occasion for the municipality as the two hundredth anniversary of the official proclamation declared by the Honorable Jacques Villere', Governor of Louisiana, in which the hamlets of Spanish Town, Aubert Town, Garcia's Bayou, and Beauregard Town were combined into a single plat that set the boundaries for the town of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, since European explorers such as Iberville and Bienville, first set foot on the fertile soil that would become Baton Rouge, the French wording for "red stick", the city's future has been wrought by its wealth of natural resources, its strategic location along the Mississippi River as a navigable gateway to trade, and its potential for commercial ventures; and

WHEREAS, as the site of the state capitol of Louisiana since 1882 and the seat of local administration for the parish of East Baton Rouge, the city has been an epicenter for government, educational opportunity, and commercial and service entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, today, the geographic footprint of Baton Rouge covers eighty square miles with a population estimate for the metropolitan area that numbers over eight hundred thousand; and

WHEREAS, the aesthetics of Baton Rouge are revealed in the hospitality of its people, its rich history, unique cultural heritage, traditions, historic buildings, beautiful landscapes, and delicious cuisine; and

WHEREAS, formed in 2016, the Bicentennial Committee represents a broad base

of organizations that came together to confect an effective plan to promote the city's attributes; and

WHEREAS, the Bicentennial Committee created a "Red Stick" mascot, engaged in social media platforms, and encouraged merchants to incorporate the BR 200th Anniversary logo into their own marketing schemes; and

WHEREAS, "BR200" is a calendar of activities planned for 2017; it is festooned with festivals, museum collections, music concerts, historic re-enactments, homecomings, displays of artifacts and significant documents; plus the creation of folk art and memorabilia rendered to denote this special event and to celebrate the history of the Capitol City; and

WHEREAS, David Norwood, local artist and award-winning cartoonist, has created a commemorate poster that captures the historic impact of the Mississippi River, Louisiana State University, Exxon-Mobil refinery, and architecture of the state capitol buildings; and

WHEREAS, "200 Things To Do" is a bucket list of favorite local experiences to be savored and shared; the list includes enjoying everyday neighborhood adventures, partaking in craft cuisine and libations from one-of-a-kind eateries, and visiting historic sites and hidden away places; and

WHEREAS, Baton Rouge is a treasure trove of art, music, festivals, and sports venues surrounded by the natural beauty and ecology of South Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the friendly citizenry of Baton Rouge strive to preserve and celebrate a way of life that has survived since its inception, and together contemplate a future filled with hope and prosperity for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the Bicentennial Anniversary of Baton Rouge merits extraordinary recognition, as it celebrates the unique contributions the city of Baton Rouge and its citizens have made to the betterment of the state of Louisiana and the world.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the citizenry of the city of Baton Rouge on its two hundred years of incorporation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the successful efforts of the Honorable Sharon Weston Broome, mayor of Baton Rouge, the membership of the Metro Council, and the Baton Rouge Bicentennial Committee to commemorate this historic event.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the singular and unique status that the capitol city of Baton Rouge holds within the state of Louisiana and does hereby commend its citizens for their extraordinary contributions to the betterment of their state and for their joie de vivre.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Sharon Weston Broome, mayor-president of the city of Baton Rouge, Andre Moreau, honorary cochair of the Bicentennial Committee, and Paul Arrigo, president of Visit Baton Rouge.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES