

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Reverend R. Henry Martin for twenty-eight years of outstanding leadership as the executive director of the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission.

WHEREAS, in 1955, Reverend R. G. Jones and several Christian businessmen founded the Shreveport Rescue Mission for the purpose of providing overnight shelter and gospel service for men passing through Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the mission quickly became a sign of hope and help, not only for transient men, but also for local homeless, hungry, and hurting citizens; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, a new era for the mission began with the appointment of Reverend R. Henry Martin as executive director, a position he held for the next twenty-eight years; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, relatively early in his tenure, and definitely a sign of things to come, the name of the mission was changed to the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission to reflect increased programming, scope of services, and population served; and

WHEREAS, while there are many more accomplishments of the mission under the leadership of Reverend Martin, highlights of those accomplishments include the establishment of a new multimillion dollar mission shelter and life center, the establishment of a thrift store to help finance the mission's work, and the institution of a Christ-centered recovery program which was complimented by a staff that grew from two to forty-five employees by the time of his retirement; and

WHEREAS, other highlights include a new one hundred fifty-four-bed facility built to address the community's growing need for the mission to provide assistance and help to women and families with children, and the establishment of the Women's Discipleship Training Program in 2010; and

WHEREAS, finally, no list of the mission's accomplishments during his tenure would be complete without also mentioning the building of a clinic to provide free medical and dental care to guests of the mission; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Martin's initiatives are recognized by his peers as a national model for Christian outreach that can transform the lives of homeless individuals by addressing their needs through preaching, counseling, and mentorship; and

WHEREAS, in the span of his career with the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission, Reverend Martin's work has helped touch, change, and transform the lives of thousands of homeless men, women, and children with the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend in great measure upon extraordinary citizens possessed of the leadership, compassion, drive, and generosity such as that of Reverend Martin, and recognition for his accomplishments and contributions is an honor well deserved.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Reverend R. Henry Martin for twenty-eight years of outstanding leadership as the executive director of the Shreveport-Bossier Rescue Mission and wish him only the best in his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Reverend R. Henry Martin.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE