

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 153

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana on its one hundred fiftieth anniversary and the Esther Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliation of Louisiana on its seventy fifth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana has historical roots in the states of Pennsylvania and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, T. W. Stringer, then District Deputy Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was petitioned in March 1849 by several colored Masons in New Orleans, Louisiana, for a dispensation to open a new lodge; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge of the state of Louisiana was founded in New Orleans on January 5, 1863; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and Bylaws for the Grand Lodge were adopted in New Orleans on April 27, 1863, and the First Annual communication was convened in New Orleans on December 17, 1863, A. L. 5863; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Lodge eventually adopted the name "Eureka Grand Lodge"; and

WHEREAS, on December 23, 1866, the Eureka Grand Lodge passed the following resolution: "That this Eureka Grand Lodge for the State of Louisiana, and now in session, declare to recognize no power supreme to that of a State Grand Lodge, as in the custom of Free and Accepted Masonry in the United States"; and

WHEREAS, in 1869, by Act No. 71 of the Louisiana State Legislature, Eureka Grand Lodge was incorporated as "The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Louisiana"; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, the Most Worshipful Eureka Grand Lodge of the state of Louisiana changed its name from "Eureka" to the name it now bears, "Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Louisiana"; and

WHEREAS, there are over two hundred lodges with a membership of over five thousand; and

WHEREAS, some of its contributions to the state of Louisiana and the Negro community in particular are stimulating support of and contributing to all worthwhile civic and social movements and institutions, including Urban League, Red Cross, National Negro College Fund, cancer, and polio; encouraging citizens to register and to vote; donating scholarships to worthy boys and girls in accredited colleges and universities; operating a fund to assist in construction of Masonic Temples; lending money to farmers under the insured mortgage program of the Farmer's Home Administration; supporting Prince Hall Masons Legal Research Bureau; conducting adult and junior leadership conferences designed to encourage leadership and action in all worthwhile efforts to raise the standard of living of citizens of this state and the local community; and participating in vocational guidance endeavors, educating children, parents and teachers on the broadening horizon of job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Prince Hall Grand Lodge and Esther Grand Chapter have engaged in philanthropic activities for one hundred fifty years in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate and commend the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana on its one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons of Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE