

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY SENATOR RISER

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the Schepis Museum in Columbia, Louisiana, on its 100th celebration.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens and the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana have learned of the upcoming 100th celebration of the Schepis Building and the Italian Heritage of Main Street, to be held on June 25, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Columbia, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Schepis Building in Columbia was originally built in 1916 by John Schepis, an emigrant architect from Sicily; and

WHEREAS, he and his wife, Rosa Schepis, a grand opera singer and piano player, settled in Columbia; and

WHEREAS, together they established a general mercantile store after building the grand Schepis Building that we honor today; and

WHEREAS, the love John Schepis had for his community and his birthplace is shown in his Renaissance-style Italian resemblance of the building; and

WHEREAS, two life size statues, George Washington holding a draped American flag and Christopher Columbus holding a draped Italian flag, and an American eagle sit atop the building as if to protect all that enter; and

WHEREAS, deserted in 1970, it was in extreme despair until 1985 when it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the Caldwell Parish Industrial Development Board received a grant in 1993 to restore the building to its present beauty and now it is truly a monument to Columbia's history; and

WHEREAS, the Schepis Museum serves as the focal point of the Columbia Historic District as established by the Historic Preservation Commission and is on the National Historic Register; and

WHEREAS, the museum is used by Louisiana citizens to gain awareness of local heritage and arts; and

WHEREAS, it provides citizens with exposure to all the different cultures, arts and heritage of Louisiana through art, drama, music, and other means; and

WHEREAS, the museum is situated in Louisiana's cotton country where Columbia was developed as a bustling riverboat town on the beautiful Ouachita River.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Schepis Museum in Columbia, Louisiana, on its 100th celebration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Schepis Museum.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE