

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

BY SENATORS GATTI AND PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To commend the city of Minden on its many accomplishments and for its efforts raising money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

WHEREAS, since Charles Hanse Veneer laid out plans for a town in the shape of a parallelogram in 1837 and named the proposed settlement Minden, after the home of his ancestors in Germany, the beautiful town in Caddo Parish has had a proud history marked by many successes; and

WHEREAS, in its early history, Minden was home to many devout denominations of Christians, including Methodists, Baptists, and Episcopalians, and many of its early settlers were from Germany, England, and from South Carolina and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the economic life of the community has always centered around commerce on Bayou Dorcheat, and the city has served as a shipping point for much of the interior of North Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, despite a string of tragedies over the years, including the Civil War and a major fire followed by a tornado in 1933, which together destroyed over half the town and killed twenty-eight people, the city and people persevered; and

WHEREAS, the current day city of Minden is a thriving place where many of the city's early homes and businesses have been preserved and lend to it a reputation as a place that treasures its past and respects its roots; and

WHEREAS, quality economic growth is a strategic goal of the city, which has implemented the Economic Development Strategy to focus on business retention and expansion, and the city has invested heavily in the Minden Airport, which includes over thirty new T-Hangers and will soon begin construction of a new fuel facility and terminal building; and

WHEREAS, the downtown area of the city is known as one of the most beautiful in Louisiana, thanks in large part to a collaboration of the residents, business community, and Downtown Development Board, which is one of the oldest in the state and hosts many events, including the annual Main to Main event, the Fasching Festival and Parade, the Wrap it Downtown Christmas project, and the annual Mardi Gras parade; and

WHEREAS, the people of Minden are generous in many ways and nothing demonstrates this more than the four decades of raising money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; and

WHEREAS, the Minden St. Jude auction began on KASO 1240 AM radio forty years ago and has grown to a four-day telethon and raffle that is simultaneously broadcast on the radio and cable station and since its inception, the community has generously given over four million dollars to help the hospital care for children suffering with cancer, an amount that makes Minden's citizens hold the claim of raising more money for St. Jude per capita than any other city; and

WHEREAS, its proud history, thriving culture, dedication to modern growth and development, and the loving generosity of its people have made Minden, Louisiana, a great place to live, work, and visit.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the city of Minden on its many accomplishments and for its efforts raising money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the mayor of the city of Minden, Tommy Davis.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE