

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 90

BY SENATOR GATTI

A RESOLUTION

To commend The Pentecostals of Bossier City, Louisiana, on their seventy-five years of service to the community since the establishment of the center for spiritual growth and healing and to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of service at this church by Pastors Jerry and Gina Dean.

WHEREAS, originally the church was known as The United Pentecostal Church of Bossier City, Louisiana, and it was formed in 1943, in the midst of World War II, by four young families looking for a place to worship and a spiritual home; and

WHEREAS, the members initially met in each others' homes and a local union hall before purchasing the property at 701 Traffic Street where the services were originally held underneath a tent, moved to a basement, and, finally, to a four hundred-seat auditorium; and

WHEREAS, the church quickly became a refuge for the hopeless, the addicted, and those searching for an experience with God, and the community at large was served by the outreach of this church and its demonstrations of both the love and the power of God; and

WHEREAS, in May, 1988 a graduate of Texas Bible College, Jerry Dean and his wife Gina moved to Bossier City to serve The Pentecostals of Bossier City, bringing with them their three children and a commitment to a true apostolic ministry, in line with the power demonstrated throughout the Book of Acts of the Bible; and

WHEREAS, prior to coming to Bossier City, Jerry Dean ministered as an evangelist and pastor before accepting a position in St. Louis, Missouri, as the General Youth Secretary of the United Pentecostal Church International; and

WHEREAS, in his messages to the church, Pastor Dean's consistent theme of an apostolic ministry identified for The Pentecostals the responsibility of supporting missionaries around the world and his leadership has resulted in more that a half a million dollars collected annually for missions alone; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, under the leadership of Pastors Jerry and Gina Dean, the church moved to a new property in North Bossier City, where the congregation was afforded

more room for growth; and

WHEREAS, since the relocation, the church has completed a Family Life Center in 2003, and a two hundred eighty-seat student center for their current students youth ministry, a facility which also houses on Sunday mornings, Los Pentecostales, the growing Spanish-speaking worship sponsored by the larger congregation in fulfillment of their community outreach and their missionary commitment; and

WHEREAS, other outreach ministries have included feeding and clothing the homeless in downtown Shreveport, providing school supplies for local school children, hosting community events in lower income areas, ministering at local correctional facilities, providing classes for people struggling with issues of substance abuse, hosting school events, and countless other services in their continuing ministry in the Northwestern Louisiana region; and

WHEREAS, this active band of Christians has extended its missionary reach globally, recently completing an orphanage for abused children in Guatemala, and Bible schools and churches built in Mexico, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Papua New Guinea, as examples; and

WHEREAS, monthly pledges at The Pentecostals are sent to over one hundred missionaries in an effort to take the light of Christianity to every corner of the earth; and

WHEREAS, Pastors Jerry and Gina Dean in leading this missionary effort have spoken in churches and conferences around the world, but, at home in Bossier City their commitment to demonstrating the love of Christ has been consistent over three decades of service and leadership; and

WHEREAS, in an age in which those in the ministry have never been under closer scrutiny nor held to a higher standard by the public, Pastors Jerry and Gina Dean have stood for three decades at The Pentecostals of Bossier City as examples of what the ministry of God's word is meant to be: selfless, humble, passionate, prayerful, and committed; and

WHEREAS, on April 13 through 15, 2018, Pastors Jerry and Gina Dean and their congregation will celebrate thirty years of service of the Lord with the people of Bossier City as The Pentecostals of Bossier City commemorate seventy-five years of being a beacon of hope and Christian love in the Northwestern Louisiana region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend The Pentecostals of Bossier City, Louisiana, on their seventy-five years of service to the community since the establishment of the center for spiritual growth and healing and to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of service at this church by Pastors Jerry and Gina Dean.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Pastors Jerry and Gina Dean at The Pentecostals of Bossier City.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE