

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATORS WALSWORTH, FANNIN AND THOMPSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Crosley Elementary School on its 100th year celebration.

WHEREAS, at the turn of the twentieth century families from neighboring states homesteaded the land west of the Ouachita River, in the western half of the parish of Ouachita and "one-room schoolhouses" sprang up around the parish; and

WHEREAS, in 1915, a tax referendum was passed to build a permanent school to begin to consolidate the schools that had been established twenty years prior in 1896; and

WHEREAS, some land was donated by Mrs. Stella Crosley Eby and Mrs. Martha Crosley Austin, two sisters who were heirs to the Crosley estate, for the sole purpose of building the first permanent school in West Monroe; and

WHEREAS, in 1916, the school was built in the middle of what had once been a cotton field just west of the original town of Trenton, and the school was named West Monroe Grammar School and offered grades first through sixth; and

WHEREAS, the students came to school via wagon when they were not needed to work on the homestead, often bringing their lunches in old syrup pails; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, the first school bus was put into service, and operated by Mr. Tom Hicks, who would pick up students at Lenwil School and bring them to West Monroe Grammar School to attend classes, and later seventh and eighth grade classes were added because there was a need because of a rise in the number of students due to the Brown Paper Mill which is now Graphic Packaging; and

WHEREAS, in 1929, a new wing was added with twelve additional classrooms, an auditorium, and a cafeteria, and the name of the school was changed to Crosley Grammar School, due to a petition brought up by Mrs. Eby and Mrs. Austin who had donated the original plot of land to name the school after their late father; and

WHEREAS, in 1930 through the early 1940s, much like today's students who fall into poverty, Crosley (because it now had a cafeteria serving meals) served as a much-needed supplier of meals to students during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, in the 1940s during World War II, gas rationing became a major issue in getting students to and from school, as the population of the school continued to grow, and more elementary schools were built and the school became much more known for its seventh and eighth grade classes it offered; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s and the 1960s the school became more competitive in extracurricular activities, with a winning football team, basketball for both boys and girls, chorus, band, and numerous clubs; West Monroe High School opened in 1954, making the west half of the parish a true contender in rivalries with schools on the east side of the Ouachita River; and Crosley celebrated its 50th anniversary, and two junior high schools were opened; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, a major fire caused most of the original structure to be demolished, and with the census of the school greatly decreased the end of the decade saw the school changed to a pre-K and kindergarten center, which remains today; and

WHEREAS, Crosley continues to serve schools all across the western half of the parish that do not presently have pre-K and kindergarten programs; and

WHEREAS, with its long and proud history and rich tradition, the Crosley school continues to maintain its high standards making it one of the most successful and respected pre-K and kindergarten programs around.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Crosley Elementary School on its 100th year celebration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Principal Tracey Flaherty.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE