SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 37

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND GATTI AND REPRESENTATIVE HORTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the officers and members of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, since its inception, the primary objective of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce has been to promote the advancement of civic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural interests within the parish and to contribute to the economic development of the Ark-La-Tex region; and

WHEREAS, progressive business leaders came together to establish the Chamber of Commerce and form a local organization to act as a conduit between commercial interests and governments to utilize the growth potential of the community; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 1947, the Chamber held its first board meeting and the articles of incorporation were registered in October; and

WHEREAS, nineteen members were named to the board of directors, followed by the election of the Chamber leadership that included V. V. Whittington as president, A. R. Teague as first vice president, O. A. Teekell as second vice president, and Harry B. Walker as treasurer; and

WHEREAS, from the original charter membership, nine corporations continue as active members today; these corporations include American Electric Power-Southwestern Electric Power Company (AEP-SWEPCO), Builders Supply Company, Inc., CenterPoint Energy, Shreveport Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Maddox and Hughes Insurance Agency, Montgomery Agency, Inc., Pulley-White Insurance Agency, Inc., Red River Motor Company, and *The Shreveport Times* newspaper; and

WHEREAS, over the next seven decades, the diverse membership of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce has promoted free enterprise and entrepreneurship; the Chamber has grown to become a network of more than nine hundred members operating in seven states and thirty-seven cities throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Bossier Chamber has advanced innovative partnerships to create community service projects, such as the Shreveport-Bossier Military Affairs Council that acts as the primary liaison between the civilian and business community and the leadership of Barksdale Air Force Base, and the Keep Bossier Beautiful anti-littering campaign; and

WHEREAS, a Chamber health initiative brought about essential public health services with establishment of the first medical emergency room in Bossier City; and

WHEREAS, an agreement between the Chamber and the Bossier Parish School Board resulted in the Bossier Youth Leadership Program; and

WHEREAS, this partnership represents an investment in motivated high school students who train for leadership roles and gain valuable experience; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber is an effective advocate for economic development in both Bossier and Caddo parishes and the Ark-La-Tex industrial infrastructure that includes service industries, multi-modal transportation centers, active and retired military, and manufacturing networks; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce remains that of an influential, vital, and dynamic force for the cultivation of economic potential in a prosperous community; and

WHEREAS, for seventy years the Bossier Chamber of Commerce has served as an integral component that makes this community a great place in which to live, work, and play.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the officers and members of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its seventieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend best wishes to the Bossier Chamber of Commerce for continued growth and success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to David Specht Jr., chairman of the Board of Directors, Lisa Johnson, President and CEO, and Terry Moore, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Bossier Chamber of Commerce.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES