

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATOR BISHOP

COMMENDATIONS. Commends St. Mary's Academy for 150 years of commitment and dedication to youth who are taught to think critically, give service, and act responsibly in a Christian environment.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize and congratulate St. Mary's Academy for one hundred fifty years of
3 commitment and dedication to youth who are taught to think critically, give service,
4 and act responsibly in a Christian environment.

5 WHEREAS, Venerable Henriette Delille, a free woman of color, was the Foundress
6 of the Sisters of the Holy Family and St. Mary's Academy, which serves as a beacon of her
7 vision; and

8 WHEREAS, St. Mary's was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Family in December
9 of 1867, under the leadership of Mother Josephine Charles; and

10 WHEREAS, the initial location of St. Mary's School was on Chartres Street and then
11 in 1881 moved to the historic Quadron Ballroom and became known as St. Mary's Academy;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Academy became the first Catholic secondary school for
14 girls of color in New Orleans, Louisiana, where Mother Magdalen Alpaugh served as the
15 first principal; and

16 WHEREAS, in the early 1900s young ladies from all over the southern states in
17 America, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Belize, Panama, and Spanish Honduras boarded at
18 and attended St. Mary's Academy to receive a superior education; and

1 WHEREAS, in the early 1930s, under the leadership of Mother Elizabeth Bowie and
2 Sister M. Boniface Adams, Principal, the school increased in enrollment and curriculum
3 offerings resulting in state accreditation; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1933, St. Mary's Academy ranked first in the state after scoring
5 highest on the state approved graduation examinations; and

6 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Academy became accredited in 1947 by the Southern
7 Association of Schools and Colleges; and

8 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Academy relocated in 1965 to 6905 Chef Menteur Highway
9 and experienced tremendous growth over the years under the tutelage of Sister Mary
10 Demetria Williams, Sister Leona Bruner, Sister Richard Francis, and Sister Jennie Jones; and

11 WHEREAS, the school continued to grow and prosper under the leadership of the
12 first named president, Sister Greta Jupiter, succeeded by Sr. Clare of Assisi Pierre; and

13 WHEREAS, in August of 2005, the wrath of Hurricane Katrina made the campus
14 uninhabitable; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2006, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, St. Mary's Academy answered
16 the call to provide academic services to an expanded preK through middle school
17 coeducational population and continued to serve an all-girl high school temporarily housed
18 at St. James Major School in Gentilly; and

19 WHEREAS, under the guidance and leadership of Sr. Clare of Assisi Pierre,
20 President, and Sr. Jennie Jones, Principal, St. Mary's Academy rebuilt and opened a new
21 facility in 2011, including a coeducational elementary, middle school, with an all-girl high
22 school, and in 2016, added a fifth through seventh grade male Academy; and

23 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Academy has been saluted for superior achievements in
24 academics, athletics, music, and the arts; and

25 WHEREAS, St. Mary's Academy continues to provide a stellar education to the
26 youth of the Greater New Orleans area and makes profound contributions through service,
27 leadership, and empowerment to the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana that
29 St. Mary's Academy is hereby recognized and commended for one hundred fifty years of
30 commitment and dedication to youth who are taught to think critically, give service, and act

