

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATOR BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that St. Mary's Academy is also commended for its community efforts to support that which exudes compassion, liberation, healing, empowerment, and preferential love.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sister Clare of Assisi and Sister Jennie Jones at St. Mary's Academy.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE