

2018 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND GATTI

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the citizens of Bossier Parish on the occasion of its 175th anniversary.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend the citizens of Bossier Parish, to recognize the one hundredth seventy-fifth
3 anniversary of the parish, and to celebrate those efforts made to encourage economic
4 growth and to preserve its rich history and cultural heritage.

5 WHEREAS, the early history of Bossier Parish dates as far back as 1542, when
6 Spanish adventurer Hernando DeSoto explored tributaries along the Red River; these lands
7 were the home of indigenous Native American tribes; and greater numbers of settlers
8 inhabited the region during the late 1700s; and

9 WHEREAS, February 24, 1843, marked the establishment of the parish of Bossier
10 by Act 33 of the Legislature of Louisiana that had been signed into law by Governor
11 Alexandre Mouton; and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Mouton appointed these public officials to create a new local
13 government, William Beck, parish judge; Robert Lowery, sheriff; R.H. Hodges, parish
14 surveyor; H.M. McFarland, coroner; and, John Lawdridge, William Crowley, and J.S.M.
15 Lowery as justices of the peace; and

16 WHEREAS, Act 33 enabled the creation of a new parish from property described as:
17 "Bordering on Red River, starting at the mouth of Loggy Bayou, thence following the shore
18 of said bayou to Lake Bisteneau, thence up along the shore of the said bayou to the line

1 between the states of Arkansas and Louisiana, thence west on said line to the eastern bank
2 of Red River, thence down along said river to the point of starting."; and

3 WHEREAS, this land east of the Red River was named for General Pierre Evariste
4 Jean-Baptiste Bossier, a planter, soldier, and politician from Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

5 WHEREAS a French Creole aristocrat, Bossier served as a general in the Louisiana
6 State militia, as a senator elected to the Louisiana State Senate from 1833 until 1843, and
7 as a United States Congressman who represented the newly created Fourth Congressional
8 District, which included the parish of Bossier; and

9 WHEREAS, the topographic makeup of the parish is that of alluvial plains with soil
10 ideal for farm crops of all kinds, livestock, plus an abundance of timber and vital water
11 resources with ample wildlife for hunting and fishing; and

12 WHEREAS, these natural resources drew newcomers to seek their fortunes in the
13 potential riches of North Louisiana found in farming, sawmills, and river trades; and

14 WHEREAS, immigrants of every ethnic origin passed through the region on their
15 way West; many settled in Bossier Parish and could trace their roots back to the northern
16 United States and every country in Europe; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1908, the discovery of crude oil thrust Bossier Parish into the
18 nationwide petroleum industry boom; and

19 WHEREAS, construction on Barksdale Air Force Base in the 1930s has had the most
20 significant economic effect on the parish as a major regional employer; named by the U.S.
21 Department of Defense as one of the key bases of the Strategic Air Command, Barksdale has
22 a lengthy history of training aviators and airmen in service to our country's armed services;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Bossier Parish has thrived during the last one hundred seventy-five
25 years by the promotion and advancement of civic, commercial, industrial, and agricultural
26 interests and by outstanding contributions as an economic incubator for the Ark-La-Tex
27 region; and

28 WHEREAS, today, Bossier Parish is strategically located as a transportation hub
29 with readily available modes of transport either by railroad, motor carrier, and waterway
30 which stimulates national commercial ventures and the exportation of Louisiana's goods to

1 global marketplaces; and

2 WHEREAS, Bossier Parish is a well-known venue for all manner of entertainment
3 that includes cultural events, recreational sports, casino gaming, and horse racing; and

4 WHEREAS, spectators are drawn to the Super Derby, a graded stake horse race of
5 nine furlongs, that runs at Louisiana Downs in early Fall; to the CenturyLink Center to view
6 musical concerts and renowned entertainers, to the Barksdale Defenders of Liberty Air
7 Show, and to the Red River, the location of two Bassmaster Classic fishing tournaments; and

8 WHEREAS, shopping opportunities abound at Louisiana Boardwalk, a retail and
9 entertainment complex that consists of more than sixty retail stores and restaurants located
10 along the scenic Red River; and

11 WHEREAS, the cities and towns located in Bossier Parish abound with a quaint
12 charm and vitality all their own; and

13 WHEREAS, Bossier City has become the sixth-largest city in the state and one of
14 the fastest-growing municipalities in the nation with an expected population of 80,000 by
15 2019; and

16 WHEREAS, the lengthy economic success of Bossier Parish is linked to the city's
17 attitude of "Faith, Family, and Community" and is destined to experience an unprecedented
18 wave of growth with new industrial expansion for many years to come; and

19 WHEREAS, in February 2018, Bossier City was recognized by Money Magazine as
20 the "Best City in Louisiana in Which to Live"; and

21 WHEREAS, Bossier Parish has an enviable public education system that includes
22 exceptional elementary and secondary schools and outstanding higher education institutions;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, in the 1960s, progressive civic leaders established the Bossier Parish
25 Community College to address the necessity for career education which would provide
26 technical training for entry level employment and maximize future growth potential and
27 greater economic opportunity; and

28 WHEREAS, more educational/research facilities are now underway, such as the
29 Cyber Innovation Center and Louisiana Tech University (Bossier-Shreveport) collaboration
30 to form the Louisiana Tech Research Institute, a cutting edge installation whose focus is to

1 accelerate 21st Century research and economic growth; and

2 WHEREAS, the leadership of Bossier City government continues to upgrade
3 municipal services and to expand infrastructure projects that include beautification, utilities,
4 roadways, traffic flow, fire protection, and public safety; and

5 WHEREAS, the parish is blessed with warm, friendly people with strong ties to
6 family, community, and country, steadfast loyal patriots of their locale and its traditions that
7 are reflected in their museums, fairs, and festivals; and

8 WHEREAS, February 24, 2018, marked the 175th Anniversary of the official
9 formation of Bossier Parish and the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center hosted an Open
10 House to invite the public to celebrate that milestone; and

11 WHEREAS, many factors contribute to the prosperity of Bossier Parish; it is a place
12 of opportunity, commerce, and innovation; however its most significant attribute is its
13 community of individuals who make Bossier a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 commend the citizens of Bossier Parish and does hereby recognize its one hundredth
16 seventy-fifth anniversary.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby note
18 the rich history and economic opportunity of Bossier Parish, and its future possibilities that
19 are filled with hope and prosperity for generations yet to come.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
21 Glenn Benton, President of the Bossier Parish Police Jury, and Lorenz "Lo" Walker,
22 Mayor of Bossier City.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST

SCR 113 Original 2018 Regular Session Peacock

Commends Bossier Parish of the occasion of its 175th anniversary.