

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND GATTI

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Act 33 enabled the creation of a new parish from property described as: "Bordering on Red River, starting at the mouth of Loggy Bayou, thence following the shore of said bayou to Lake Bisteneau, thence up along the shore of the said bayou to the line between the states of Arkansas and Louisiana, thence west on said line to the eastern bank of Red River, thence down along said river to the point of starting."; and

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

WHEREAS a French Creole aristocrat, Bossier served as a general in the Louisiana State militia, as a senator elected to the Louisiana State Senate from 1833 until 1843, and as a United States Congressman who represented the newly created Fourth Congressional

District, which included the parish of Bossier; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, more educational/research facilities are now underway, such as the Cyber Innovation Center and Louisiana Tech University (Bossier-Shreveport) collaboration to form the Louisiana Tech Research Institute, a cutting edge installation whose focus is to accelerate 21st Century research and economic growth; and

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

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

WHEREAS, February 24, 2018, marked the 175th anniversary of the official formation of Bossier Parish and the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center hosted an open house to invite the public to celebrate that milestone; and

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES