

2018 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

BY SENATOR BARROW

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers of Baton Rouge upon the celebration of the momentous occasion of their 70th year anniversary as a traditional quartet gospel singing group.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers of Baton Rouge upon their
3 seventieth year anniversary as a traditional quartet gospel singing group.

4 WHEREAS, the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers were organized in 1948 by
5 Sister Eleanor Hill and, under the auspices of older brother, John "Jay" Wright, and the
6 Lighthouse Seniors, they became the first generation of Lighthouse Juniors with the original
7 members consisting of brothers Perry Wright Jr., Levie Wright, and Sterling Wright and
8 their first cousin Helen Wright; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1951, the late William Jackson became the first manager of the
10 Lighthouse Juniors; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1957, another brother, Linwood "Moonie" Wright became a member
12 of the group; and

13 WHEREAS, the young Wright brothers, known then as the Lighthouse Juniors,
14 traveled in and around their hometown singing and lifting up the name of Jesus through their
15 gospel songs; and

16 WHEREAS, born to Christian parents, Reverend Perry Wright Sr. and Sister Daisy
17 Hills Wright, they were reared in the little town of Wilson, Louisiana, where their father who
18 was a Baptist pastor and their mother who was also a local traditional gospel songbird,

1 nurtured their gift of singing; Daisy made them some little black robes and put matching
2 little black tennis shoes on them; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1962, Reverend Jeffery Spears became the second manager and
4 remained faithful until his death; shortly thereafter, in the same year, Brother Willie Jackson
5 became the third manager of the Lighthouse Juniors; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1965, Brother John Robertson joined the group as a lead singer and
7 also became the fourth manager of the Lighthouse Juniors, serving in that capacity until his
8 death in 2001; after his death, Brother Sam Milligan became the fifth manager of the group
9 and continues to serve in this capacity presently; and

10 WHEREAS, during Brother Robertson's tenure with the group, God graced them
11 with an abundance of blessings: they changed their name to the Lighthouse Gospel Singers;
12 they began to travel across the country; they even began promoting their own gospel
13 concerts at various popular venues around the capital city of Baton Rouge which included
14 a lineup of several major traditional gospel recording artists such as Brother Clarence
15 Fountain and the Five Blind Boys of Alabama, Spencer Taylor and the Highway QC's,
16 Pastor Shirley Caesar, The Truthettes, Slim and the Supreme Angels, Doc McKenzie and the
17 Gospel HiLites, Willie Neal Johnson and the Gospel Keynotes, Willie Banks and the
18 Messengers, and many, many other major quartet gospel artists around the country; they also
19 produced and began their own local radio program over fifty-one years ago, and to this day
20 they can still be heard on radio station Heaven 1460 AM WXOK every Sunday morning
21 from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.; and

22 WHEREAS, the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers again expanded the group in
23 1966 to include brothers Roosevelt Hafford and John Johnson, and late brothers Willie
24 Miles, Earl Johnson, and Donald Ray "Fats" Johnson; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1971 God again blessed the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers;
26 they recorded their first double 45 record that included two songs: "I'm On my Journey
27 Now" and "There's a Man"; two years later they released two 45 singles: "Nobody Knows"
28 and "Two Wings"; this was the beginning of the highlight of an immeasurable career for the
29 group; and

30 WHEREAS, from the mid 70s to the late 90s and into the early millennial years, the

1 Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers added to their discography of musical recordings
2 another 45 record, two LP albums, and several studio projects; their first full LP album
3 entitled "Let Jesus Have Control" was released in 1981 with ten songs on it; two of the songs
4 included on this LP were "I'll Rise Again" and "Nobody Knows", which were both written
5 by lead singer and songwriter, Pastor Perry Wright Jr., and unbeknownst to the group, "I'll
6 Rise Again" would later become a national hit, which was and still is to this day the most
7 requested song on radio and in person; their third 45 record included two songs: "Stretch Out
8 on God's Word" and "God's Got His Eyes on You"; in the early 90s, LP albums and 45s had
9 become a thing of the past; in order to keep up with the changing times, radio stations began
10 requesting artists' music be submitted via compact disc; in order to keep their music,
11 including their national hit song "I'll Rise Again" in rotation, the Lighthouse Gospel Singers
12 were able to convert their "Let Jesus Have Control" LP onto a compact disc; in actuality this
13 was their first recording which was released as a CD; their next and second CD release was
14 "Calm the Storm" and their third CD entitled "I'll Rise Again" was named after their national
15 hit song; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1984, the sixth boy and baby brother of the Wright brothers, David
17 "Crock" Wright Sr. joined the group as a baritone singer and lead guitarist; around this time
18 the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers, in keeping with the tradition which was started
19 over thirty years before, noticed "the gift of song" in their sons and decided to train, push,
20 and groom them to one day carry on the legacy of their fathers, so from this lineage the
21 Lighthouse Gospel Singers formed a second generation of Lighthouse Juniors; the
22 Lighthouse Gospel Singers then became the Lighthouse *Senior* Gospel Singers; and

23 WHEREAS, in November 2016 with Dr. Gerard A. Robinson Sr. as their business
24 manager, the Lighthouse Senior Gospel Singers recorded and produced their first ever
25 national CD/DVD recording entitled "Through it All" live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on a
26 national record label: Ecko Records of Memphis, Tennessee; it was from this recording that
27 "Legendary" was added to their nationally known name; and

28 WHEREAS, the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers are schedule to release their
29 second national recording on the Ecko record label in June of 2018; and

30 WHEREAS, the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers continue to gain prominence

1 as one of the longest living premiere traditional quartet gospel groups as they continue to
2 travel all over the country singing praises unto Almighty God.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
4 does hereby commend and celebrate the Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers as they reach
5 the momentous milestone of seventy years of traditional quartet gospel singing, and hereby
6 record for posterity their accomplishment.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
8 Legendary Lighthouse Gospel Singers, Pastor Perry Wright Jr., Pastor Sterling Wright,
9 Levie Wright Sr., and Helen Wright Dantzler.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Ann S. Brown.

DIGEST

SR 8 Original

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