SLS 23RS-1562 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR FIELDS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Wesley United Methodist Church on the 157^{th} Anniversary of its founding.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To commend and congratulate Wesley United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on the
3	occasion of its 157th anniversary of its founding.
4	WHEREAS, in May of 1866, Mr. William D. Mann purchased a plot of land in a
5	historic section of Baton Rouge called Beauregard Town for the purpose of erecting a
6	church; and
7	WHEREAS, on this site, the original Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church
8	was built by the labor and efforts of the church's founders, becoming the first Methodist
9	church independent of a white church in Baton Rouge; and
10	WHEREAS, according to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Louisiana Genealogy
11	and History, in 1889, the basement of the church began its use by the Blundon School and
12	Orphanage to serve "impoverished colored children", educating children during the day and
13	adults at night, and thereby adding to its meaningful history; and
14	WHEREAS, in 1939, the church changed its name to Wesley Methodist Church and
15	continued to grow and thrive for the benefit of its membership as an important social
16	institution in south Baton Rouge; and
17	WHEREAS, although the church's original structure served the community for eighty
18	years enduring through fire, storms, and time, by 1966, the congregation had grown so large

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that a new church had to be built; and

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WHEREAS, the new church, built at the same location with most of the furnishings acquired as gifts from members, features stained glass windows designed to be seen from top to bottom and includes a pipe organ, the only African-American church in Baton Rouge to have a pipe organ; and

WHEREAS, today the church is known as the Wesley United Methodist Church, is honored with the service of more than fifty ministers, boasts a congregation that includes more than fifty individuals with fifty or more years of membership, and maintains its rich history of service to God and His Word; and

WHEREAS, lead by senior pastor Reverend Fredrick Sweetyne, Wesley United Methodist Church will be celebrating its Founder's Day 2023, the 157th Anniversary of its founding on Sunday, May 21, 2023.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Wesley United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on the occasion of the 157th anniversary of its founding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Foundation Day committee member, Mr. Melvin C. Mitchell Sr.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST 2023 Regular Session

Fields

Commends and congratulates Wesley United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on the occasion of the 157th anniversary of its founding.