

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR FIELDS

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Wesley United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on the occasion of the 157th anniversary of its founding.

WHEREAS, in May of 1866, Mr. William D. Mann purchased a plot of land in a historic section of Baton Rouge called Beauregard Town for the purpose of erecting a church; and

WHEREAS, on this site, the original Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church was built by the labor and efforts of the church's founders, becoming the first Methodist church independent of a white church in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, according to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Louisiana Genealogy and History, in 1889, the basement of the church began its use by the Blundon School and Orphanage to serve "impoverished colored children", educating children during the day and adults at night, and thereby adding to its meaningful history; and

WHEREAS, in 1939, the church changed its name to Wesley Methodist Church and continued to grow and thrive for the benefit of its membership as an important social institution in south Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, although the church's original structure served the community for eighty years enduring through fire, storms, and time, by 1966, the congregation had grown so large that a new church had to be built; and

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.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE