



1           WHEREAS, this tragedy galvanized the Civil Rights Movement and sparked a surge  
2 of momentum that helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting  
3 Rights Act of 1965; and

4           WHEREAS, justice was delayed for these four young martyrs and their families until  
5 2002, thirty-nine years after the bombing, when the last of the four klansmen responsible for  
6 the bombing was charged and convicted of the crime; and

7           WHEREAS, these four young women are emblematic of so many who have lost their  
8 lives for the cause of freedom and equality, including Virgil Ware and James Johnny  
9 Robinson, two children who were also killed within hours of the 1963 church bombing; and

10           WHEREAS, these young women were eulogized by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.,  
11 and he was invited, along with the victims' families and other civil rights leaders, by  
12 President John F. Kennedy to the White House for one of the many meetings that led to the  
13 Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act; and

14           WHEREAS, the legacy that these four young women left will live on in our minds  
15 and hearts for generations to come; and

16           WHEREAS, the extraordinary sacrifice of these innocent lives sparked real and  
17 lasting changes as congress began to aggressively pass legislation that ensured equality; and

18           WHEREAS, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, which served as a meeting place for  
19 civil rights organizers, remains a powerful symbol of the movement for civil and human  
20 rights, and the church will host a ceremony to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing  
21 on Sunday, September 15, 2013; and

22           WHEREAS, on Friday, May 24, 2013, President Barack Obama signed legislation  
23 that bestowed the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, upon Addie Mae  
24 Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley; and

25           WHEREAS, these young women who gave the ultimate sacrifice merit the highest  
26 measure of commendation and it is fitting to honor the four little black girls, as they became  
27 known, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley,  
28 posthumously in recognition of the fiftieth commemoration of the historical significance of  
29 the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Sixteenth  
3 Street Baptist Church bombing in which the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair,  
4 Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley were tragically taken, does hereby express to their  
5 families the deepest sympathy of the state of Louisiana for the loss of these young women  
6 who made the ultimate sacrifice for equality, does hereby recognize their deaths as a catalyst  
7 for the "Movement that Changed the World" that galvanized momentum to help secure the  
8 passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and does hereby  
9 record for posterity the immense pride that the memory of these four courageous, young  
10 women will forever bring to their friends and families, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church,  
11 the city of Birmingham, the state of Alabama, and the United States of America.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
13 to William A. Bell, Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Gaines

HCR No. 182

Commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the 1963 Birmingham church bombing in which four black girls, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, were killed.