

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATORS JOHNS AND JOHN SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the city of Sulphur, Louisiana, its citizenry, and public officials, on the celebration of its Centennial.

WHEREAS, April 17, 2014, marks a memorable and historic occasion for the municipality as the one hundredth anniversary of official recognition as a village by proclamation by Luther E. Hall, Governor of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Sulphur, a ten square mile portion of Calcasieu Parish, abounds with quaint charm and vitality all its own; named the "Gateway to the Creole Nature Trail", its wetlands and alluvial plains are a focal point of time-honored traditions that date back to the agrarian and cowboy-ranching cultures of the 1880's; and

WHEREAS, the city's name evolved from the rich deposits of the bright yellow element, sulfur; also known as brimstone, that were mined by corporations such as the Calcasieu Sulphur Mining Company and the Union Sulphur Company; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Herman Frasch, a German chemist, had patented a process in which sulfur could be safely extracted from sandy soil and a regional mining industry was born; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Kleinpeter originally named the area "Kleinpeter's Square", however, in 1900, when he filed the map of the town's layout, the name was changed to "Sulphur City", then the U.S. Post Office intervened and the City designation was dropped from its name; it also bore the affluent title of "the richest fifty acres in the world"; and

WHEREAS, the founders and first entrepreneurs of Sulphur include the names of Burton, Perkins, Frasch, Henning, Burlison, Root, LaFargue, Ellender, and Breeden, along with familiar institutions that include the Brimstone Railroad, the Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic churches, and the Frasch School; and

WHEREAS, in the 1920s, sulfur mining and the timber industry were no longer lucrative economies and new commercial ventures were developed with utilization of the accessibility of deep water channels to the Gulf of Mexico which gave rise to extraordinary industrial growth along the Calcasieu River including petrochemical and manufacturing facilities such as Mathieson Alkalie Works; now Olin, Cities Service Refinery; now known as Citgo; PPG, and many others along the corridor that drew its labor force from around the world; and

WHEREAS, the present population of over twenty-two thousand consists of all manner of ethnic origins and many are descendants of early immigrants who can trace their roots back to the heartland of the United States, Canada, and Germany; and

WHEREAS, today Sulphur is strategically located as a transportation hub with readily available modes of transport either by railroad, motor carrier, or waterway which stimulates the exportation of Louisiana's goods to global marketplaces and the importation of foreign trade; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of vital water resources provide ample wildlife for hunting and fishing which makes Sulphur an excellent area for leisure and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Sulphur 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 fairs and festivals, the Cal-Cam Fair, Christmas Under the Oaks Festival, and the Heritage Days Festival; and

WHEREAS, in mid-March Sulphur held a series of fetes to celebrate its first one hundred years, 1914-2014, that included a rodeo, a centennial parade, concerts performed in Heritage Square, demonstrations of traditional undertakings such as soap-making and blacksmithing, arts and crafts, a pictorial quilt raffle, opening of a time capsule, exhibits at the Henning Cultural Center, the unveiling of a permanent centennial display at the Brimstone Museum, the striking of commemorative coins, and the publication of centennial history books; and

WHEREAS, Sulphur's lengthy economic success is linked to the city's attitude and motto 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, the people of Sulphur strive to preserve and celebrate a way of life that has survived since its inception, and together contemplate a future filled with hope and prosperity for generations yet to come.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the city of Sulphur upon the celebration of its first one hundred years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that April 17, 2014, is hereby recognized as the First Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the city of Sulphur.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Christopher Duncan, mayor of the city of Sulphur.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE