

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 217

BY REPRESENTATIVES BURRELL, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS,
CARMODY, COX, JEFFERSON, JIM MORRIS, REYNOLDS, SEABAUGH,
THOMPSON, AND PATRICK WILLIAMS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Horseshoe Bossier City Casino upon the occasion of its twentieth anniversary and its sister property, Harrah's Louisiana Downs, upon the occasion of its fortieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, built by Jack Binion, Horseshoe Bossier City Casino began operating on July 9, 1994; and

WHEREAS, Horseshoe Bossier City Casino was the first Horseshoe property to be built outside of Las Vegas; and

WHEREAS, Harrah's Louisiana Downs and Horseshoe were acquired by Harrah's Entertainment in 2002 and 2004 respectively, and Harrah's became known as Caesar's Entertainment in 2010; and

WHEREAS, along with its sister property, Louisiana Downs, Horseshoe is the third largest employer in Bossier City, with nearly one thousand seven hundred employees; and

WHEREAS, Horseshoe is an entertainment hot spot in northwest Louisiana, known for presenting shows from well-known talent such as Willie Nelson, Tony Bennett, Bill Cosby, Loretta Lynn, and Wynonna; and

WHEREAS, Horseshoe is home to the newly built DARE Day Club Ultra pool, which brings a hip new experience to northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in addition to providing entertainment for the region, Horseshoe is a major supporter of charities and nonprofits in northwest Louisiana such as the Philadelphia Center, the Caddo and Bossier Councils on Aging, and the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Horseshoe employees donated more than seven thousand hours to local organizations for the betterment of their community; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Downs opened for business on October 30, 1974, making this year the fortieth anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Downs races both quarter horses and thoroughbred horses; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Louisiana Downs began the Super Derby, which runs every September and has attracted Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes winners; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Downs offers entertainment for the whole family including unique events such as exotic animal racing and wiener dog races; and

WHEREAS, like Horseshoe, Louisiana Downs is a major supporter of many charities and nonprofits in northwest Louisiana, including the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Backside Benevolence Fund; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Downs was used as the location for the filming of "Ruffian", which was a film about the famed horse, Ruffian, who dominated racing in the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Horseshoe Bossier City Casino and Harrah's Louisiana Downs are enormous contributors to the health of the economy in the Shreveport-Bossier area and the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, in the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year, riverboat casinos in Shreveport-Bossier generated over one hundred forty million dollars in fees which were paid to the state, making Shreveport-Bossier the most prolific provider of income to the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, gaming revenue is a substantial part of the Louisiana economy, generating over six hundred seventy-one million dollars in direct gaming revenue in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012, more than half of which was generated from riverboat gaming; and

WHEREAS, the revenue generated from gaming operations fund various programs in the state and is a primary source of funding for the Support Education in Louisiana Fund (SELF); and

WHEREAS, in addition to their enormous contributions to the economy of the state of Louisiana, in 2012, Horseshoe alone paid over forty-three million dollars in payroll to one thousand two hundred twenty-four employees, one thousand one hundred ninety-two of whom were Louisiana residents, eight hundred three of whom were minorities, and six hundred eighty-eight were female; and

WHEREAS, Horseshoe Bossier City Casino and Harrah's Louisiana Downs are an exceptional source of entertainment to the people of Louisiana and make a profound difference by giving back to the community; and

WHEREAS, Horseshoe and Louisiana Downs are prime contributors to the economy of the state of Louisiana, bringing in an incredible amount of revenue for the betterment of the state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Horseshoe Bossier City Casino upon its twentieth anniversary and its sister property, Harrah's Louisiana Downs, upon its fortieth anniversary and does hereby acknowledge and show appreciation for their significant contributions to Shreveport-Bossier, northwest Louisiana, and the state of Louisiana as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Horseshoe Bossier City Casino and Harrah's Louisiana Downs.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES