

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

BY REPRESENTATIVE GAROFALO

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Living History Foundation and its partners upon the reenactment of the Battle of New Orleans marking the bicentennial of the battle.

WHEREAS, in its endeavor to celebrate the bicentennial of the Battle of New Orleans, the Louisiana Living History Foundation assembled the largest collection of people in 1812-era uniforms since the War of 1812; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the efforts of the Louisiana Living History Foundation, one thousand five hundred eighty-eight participants from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany, and the United States took formations as the British and American armies of 1815 and reenacted the five battles of the Louisiana campaign that constituted the Battle of New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, through the generosity of its partners, the Honorable James Coleman, Terry Tedesco, and the Joseph & Arlene Meraux Charitable Foundations, the foundation transformed a twenty-five acre plot of land into an historically accurate replica of the 1815 Chalmette Battlefield, including the ramparts of Line Jackson, on property just a mile away from the actual battlefield site; and

WHEREAS, without constructing this "Living History Park", the bicentennial reenactment could not have occurred because it is illegal, under federal law, to reenact a battle on national park property; and

WHEREAS, more than fifteen thousand visitors were on hand to witness this bicentennial event during the first weekend in January 2015; the visitors met more than six hundred historical reenactors who camped on the field in Chalmette in period character; and

WHEREAS, more than three thousand school children attended, learning the importance of the Battle of New Orleans in the history of the state and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Living History Foundation's reenactment of the Battle of New Orleans was the largest tourism event in the history of St. Bernard Parish, bringing millions of dollars into the local economy; and

WHEREAS, generous support from the St. Bernard Parish sheriff's office, fire department, and parish government allowed the Louisiana Living History Foundation to put on the largest bicentennial celebration of the War of 1812, but the enterprise was otherwise financed almost completely with private contributions; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Living History Foundation plans to make the five-battle reenactment experience an annual event to forever keep alive the memory of the valiant heroes of the Battle of New Orleans who saved the relatively young nation of the United States from being ripped asunder; and

WHEREAS, the reenactment of the Battle of New Orleans promises to make Louisiana a nexus of living historical tourism in North America; more than seven hundred reenactors have already pledged to attend the 2016 event, which will bring millions of dollars in economic impact to St. Bernard Parish and the state economy; and

WHEREAS, a goal of the Louisiana Living History Foundation is that the permanent Meraux Living History Park will venerate not only the Battle of New Orleans but will be available to other historical groups for battle reenactments throughout the year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Living History Foundation and the organizers of the foundation's Battle of New Orleans reenactment and does hereby express the pride of the citizens of Louisiana in the efforts of the foundation to maintain such a vital part of the heritage of the state and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Living History Foundation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES