SLS 15RS-501 ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY SENATOR LONG

COMMENDATIONS. Commends The Gideons International for its contributions and the role it has played in Louisiana and in supporting the Louisiana Gideons.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To commend The Gideons International for its contributions and the role it has played in
3	Louisiana and in supporting the Louisiana Gideons.
4	WHEREAS, The Gideons International was founded in 1899, serves as an extended
5	missionary arm of the church, and is the oldest association of Christian businessmen and
6	professional men in the United States of America; and
7	WHEREAS, in the fall of 1898, John H. Nicholson of Janesville, Wisconsin, came
8	to the Central Hotel at Boscobel, Wisconsin, and, because the hotel was full and crowded,
9	he was asked to take a bed in a double room with Samuel E. Hill of Beloit, Wisconsin; and
10	WHEREAS, the two men soon discovered that both were Christians, and after their
11	evening devotions together and on their knees before God, the thoughts were given which
12	later developed into an association; and
13	WHEREAS, on May 31, 1899, the two men met again at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin,
14	where they concluded to band Christian commercial travelers together for mutual
15	recognition, personal evangelism, and united service for the Lord; and
16	WHEREAS, they decided to call a meeting in Janesville, Wisconsin, on July 1, 1899,
17	in the Y.M.C.A.; and
18	WHEREAS, only three men were present at that first meeting: John H. Nicholson,

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1	Samuel E. Hill, and Will J. Knights; and
2	WHEREAS, they organized with Mr. Hill as president, Mr. Knights as vice president,
3	and Mr. Nicholson as secretary and treasurer; and
4	WHEREAS, much thought and prayer was given to what the name of the association
5	should be, and after special prayer, Mr. Knights arose from his knees and said, "We shall be
6	called Gideons", he then read the sixth and seventh chapters of the book of Judges, which
7	explained the reason for adopting that name; and
8	WHEREAS, almost all of the Gideons in the early years were traveling men, and the
9	question arose regarding how they might be more effective witnesses in the hotels where
10	they spent so much of their time; one trustee suggested that the Gideons furnish a Bible for
11	each bedroom of the hotels in the United States, and this began the "Bible Project"; and
12	WHEREAS, it has been just over one hundred years since The Gideons International
13	placed the first Bible in a hotel room in Montana; and
14	WHEREAS, Bibles and New Testaments are placed in hotels, motels, hospitals,
15	convalescent homes, medical offices, domestic violence centers, prisons, and jails, and are
16	personally distributed by members of The Gideons International to groups such as students
17	in the fifth grade and above, prisoners, police, fire, medical, military personnel, and anyone
18	else the Gideons witness to individually; and
19	WHEREAS, today there are over 300,000 Gideons and Auxiliary members (wives
20	of Gideons) in more than eleven thousand nine hundred local groups worldwide, and
21	organized in more than one hundred ninety countries around the globe; and
22	WHEREAS, Bibles and New Testaments are printed for distribution by The Gideons
23	International in more than ninety languages; and
24	WHEREAS, between 1999 and 2013, over one billion scriptures were shared, which
25	were more scriptures than in the previous ninety years; and
26	WHEREAS, approximately one billion nine hundred million Bibles and New
27	Testaments have been distributed worldwide since 1908, more than seven hundred fifty
28	million Bibles and New Testaments were distributed in the last ten years, and more than
29	eighty-one million copies of God's Word were distributed just last year; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated The Gideons International will distribute its two billionth

SLS 15RS-501 ORIGINAL SCR NO. 62

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WHEREAS, with the support of The Gideons International, the Louisiana Gideons celebrated its fifty-fifth consecutive state convention in April 2015 and now have more than fifty Gideon camps in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon dedicated individuals and organizations like the Gideons.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend The Gideons International for its contributions and the role they it has played in Louisiana and in supporting the Louisiana Gideons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Gideons and The Gideons International.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

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Commends The Gideons International for its contributions and role it has played in Louisiana and in supporting the Louisiana Gideons.