SLS 17RS-926 **ORIGINAL**

2017 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 60

BY SENATOR PERRY

PUBLIC BUILDINGS/GROUNDS. Designates the grounds surrounding the Old Arsenal Museum on the capitol grounds as The Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To authorize that the grounds surrounding the Old Arsenal Museum on the capitol grounds be designated as "The Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park".

WHEREAS, Louisiana citizens have fought in every war America has engaged in since the rebellion against Great Britain in 1776; and

WHEREAS, the Old Arsenal Museum originally served as part of Louisiana's largest military complex of the day, functioning as a supply depot for weapons, powder, and ammunition; and

WHEREAS, in its early days, military forces were housed inside this sprawling complex as the location of the arsenal was strategically critical to maintaining control over the region, and in 1816, Congress formally established the complex as the Baton Rouge Arsenal and Ordnance Depot; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State Militia seized the Arsenal at the start of the Civil War but could not hold it against Union Forces who recaptured the post in May of 1862; and

WHEREAS, the Confederate Army failed in an attempt to take back the Arsenal during the Battle of Baton Rouge in August, 1862, in which the Arsenal came under heavy fire but remained in the hands of Union forces and would remain in their hands for the rest of the war; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana military forces, throughout our history as a state, have been summoned to serve in all wars and conflicts that the United States has engaged in, traveling far from home and fighting bravely to preserve America's freedom; and

WHEREAS, no matter where the struggle for freedom took the nation, from the jungles of the Phillippines, the charge up San Juan Hill, to World War I and II, Korea, and Vietnam, and to the current fighting in the Middle East and Asia, Louisiana's armed forces have always heeded the call of their country and served with bravery and distinction; and

WHEREAS, the Old Arsenal Museum still stands today, well-preserved and a reminder to all that there are times when ordinary citizens must take up arms and fight to maintain both freedom and peace; and

WHEREAS, the Old Arsenal now serves as a shaded park where visitors walk, relax, and take in the beauty of the historic grounds where so much military activity has taken place because of the critical and strategic importance of controlling river traffic and the region itself; and

WHEREAS, the Old Arsenal, with it's peaceful gardens, could once more serve to honor it's military origins by being designated as The Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park, dedicated to all Louisiana veterans for their brave service and many sacrifices made to insure the safety and freedom of the state and nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the gardens and grounds that surround the Old Arsenal Museum as The Louisiana Veterans Park in honor of all Louisiana citizens who served in the armed forces of this state and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

SCR 60 Original 2017 Regular Session Perry

Designates the grounds surrounding the Old Arsenal Museum as The Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park.