

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

BY SENATORS PEACOCK AND GATTI

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the students, faculty, administrators, and alumni of Bossier High School on the occasion of its Centennial celebration and to pay tribute to the accomplishments of its many graduates.

WHEREAS, Bossier High School, BHS, has produced an eclectic class of graduates throughout its one hundred years of academic excellence and its alumni have made remarkable contributions to the enrichment of the community, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, May 13, 2017, members of the BHS Bearkat Nation shall gather together to recollect their shared experiences, revisit the past glories of classmates and friends, and rekindle the meaning of the BHS Crest - Truth, Honor, Wisdom; and

WHEREAS, BHS holds a wealth of historic significance in the annals of Bossier Parish as its oldest high school; chartered in 1917, the first site, located on Traffic Street, now houses Bossier Elementary School; the first BHS graduating class consisted of five female students; and

WHEREAS, the present structure was designed by Shreveport architect, Sam Wiener, and opened in 1940; the facade is an example of the architectural style known as "International Design"; the building has been recognized as a historic preservation property and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, throughout its lengthy history, BHS has developed traditions that have withstood the test of time; such benchmarks as, the Bossier Bear Facts school newspaper began in 1939; the *Les Memoires* yearbook was first published in 1945; the school flag of kelly green and white embossed with a Bearkat and the BHS motto was designed in 1962; football began in 1926; the first letter jacket was issued in 1934; and the Bossier Invitational Basketball Tournament began in 1940 and remains the longest running competition of its

kind in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Bearcat mascot was selected in 1926, however the spelling was later changed to "Bearkat" to discern Bossier High athletics from the Ruston High Bearcats; and

WHEREAS, the music and lyrics to the BHS Alma Mater were written by a student, Robert D. Young, in 1938; *Like a wave, a mighty city surging round our feet, guide us, train us, teach us wisdom, alma mater, sweet. Forward, forward, Bossier High School time and tide may fail, but our hearts will ever love thee Alma Mater, hail!*; and

WHEREAS, in 1925, the school colors of kelly green and white were adopted and the faithful alumni axiom of "always bleed green"; and

WHEREAS, the overall objective of this extraordinary academic institution remains the same; *"the mission of Bossier High School, in partnership with parents and community, is to foster the development of an environment that will facilitate learning for all students, promote self-esteem and respect for others, and launch learners on a quest for high standards, all of which will lead them to be self-sufficient adults"*; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive academic curricula supported by a superior faculty has produced exceptional student achievement with standout performances in student testing as well as band competition, debate, literary rallies, National Honor Society, AFJROTC, and choir, and spirited extracurricular activities have energized the school year with athletics and team sports, homecoming, yearbook, and commencement ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, the Bearkat Nation is a composite of a thriving student body and alumni from all over the world; the "Barksdale Kids" is the moniker proudly shared by students from military families who have made BHS a part of their learning experience and their presence adds a welcome diversity and interest to the school's ecology; and

WHEREAS, in its first one hundred years, BHS has matriculated thousands of graduates who have moved forward into city, state, national, and worldwide venues and have made positive contributions in every spectrum of society; and

WHEREAS, scores of BHS alumni have reached the pinnacle in their professions and include in their number, a presidential candidate, college chancellor, district attorney, NASA space flight educator, Grammy-nominated songwriter, director of brain surgery at Harvard Medical School, president of the National Organization for Women, president of the national

Jaycees, an Olympian, and numerous professional athletes; and

WHEREAS, the tenets of learning and leadership instilled at BHS challenge students to excel and provide the necessary training for future careers as elected officials, first responders, scientists, educators, businessmen, medical professionals, authors, military service personnel, and energetic citizens at work in the Ark-La-Tex region; and

WHEREAS, many former students have "returned to the school" as teachers, coaches, administrators, and school board members; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Charles E. "Buddy" Roemer, governor of Louisiana and United States Congressman, was valedictorian of the Class of 1960 and was inducted into the BHS Alumni Association Hall of Fame for lifetime achievement; and the Honorable Foster L. Campbell served for twenty-six years in the Senate of Louisiana and presently serves on the Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, the BHS Alumni Association was formed in 2005 to foster connectivity between all former students, to promote continued interest in BHS activities, to honor the community service of its members with the Medal of Merit award, and to provide financial support and scholarships as reward for exceptional academic performance; and

WHEREAS, donations of treasured mementos that include band uniforms, letterman sweaters, yearbooks, and other memorabilia are on exhibit at the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center until the end of the year; and

WHEREAS, today's student body has forged its own impressive list of successful pathways and graduates are recognized for their commitment to pursue military careers; and

WHEREAS, military service has always been an integral part of BHS and that commitment is reflected in AFJROTC participation, veteran honors, and heartfelt memorials that recognize fallen classmates who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, demands of a changing world affect the content of curricula and the utility of classroom space; ten computer labs are readily available on campus; and

WHEREAS, David Thrash, the 2011 Louisiana High School Principal of the Year, begins his thirty-fifth year in education and upholds the legacy of BHS with the motto for this centennial year, "Game on, We got this!"; and

WHEREAS, all Bearkats alumni are invited to celebrate on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at the Bossier Civic Center with a slate of activities, food and music venues, and an antique car show and BHS alumni are encouraged to actively participate in the year-long celebration of one hundred years of Bossier High School Pride.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the students, faculty, administrators, and alumni of Bossier High School on the occasion of its Centennial celebration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby pay tribute to the accomplishments of the Bearkat Nation of Bossier High School Alumni.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to David W. Thrash, principal of Bossier High School and Carolyn Grimsley, president of the Bossier High School Alumni Association.

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES