HLS 17RS-2763 ORIGINAL

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 107

BY REPRESENTATIVES LEOPOLD AND GARY CARTER AND SENATOR CARTER

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Blaine S. Kern upon his 90th birthday

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To commend Mr. Blaine S. Kern upon the momentous occasion of his ninetieth birthday.
3	WHEREAS, it is appropriate to congratulate and commend Mr. Blaine Kern upon
4	the occasion of his ninetieth birthday; and
5	WHEREAS, Blaine Kern was born in Algiers on May 17, 1927; and
6	WHEREAS, at twelve years of age, Mr. Kern began helping his father, Roy, a sign
7	painter; and
8	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern spent his teenage years working on tugboats and shrimping
9	on troll boats; and
0	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern and his father painted their first Mardi Gras float together in
1	1932; and
12	WHEREAS, in 1945, when Mr. Kern was eighteen years old, he was drafted into
13	World War II as it was ending; and
4	WHEREAS, after spending one year in Korea, Mr. Kern returned home to find his
15	mother ill and in need of an operation; and
16	WHEREAS, to cover his mother's medical expenses, in 1947, Mr. Kern painted a
17	mural in a hospital that caught the eye of Dr. Henry LaRocca of Algiers; and
18	WHEREAS, Dr. LaRocca, who was the captain of the Krewe of Alla, invited Mr.
9	Kern to design, build, and paint floats for his krewe; and
20	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern was paid three thousand dollars to paint ten floats for his very
21	first parade and the parade was a huge success; and

HLS 17RS-2763

1	WHEREAS, in that same year, Blaine Kern Artists was founded; and
2	WHEREAS, after such great fortune with the Krewe of Alla, the captain of Rex hired
3	Mr. Kern to build its parade; and
4	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern traveled extensively to France, Spain, and Italy to study under
5	the world's leading float and costume makers and found tremendous inspiration in the
6	European style of float making; and
7	WHEREAS, upon his return to New Orleans, Mr. Kern's success as a legendary float
8	maker was cemented in history when he invented the double deck float, multiple unit floats,
9	and animated floats; and
10	WHEREAS, because of great public interest in float making, in 1984, Mr. Kern
11	created and opened Mardi Gras World as a "behind the scenes" tourist attraction that
12	annually draws more than one hundred fifty thousand visitors from around the world; and
13	WHEREAS, through his founding of Blaine Kern Artists and Mardi Gras World, Mr.
14	Kern has single-handedly created thousands of jobs in the city of New Orleans; and
15	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern left an indelible mark on the 1984 World's Fair in having
16	created widely recognized pieces including its entrance, the Wonderwall, and the gondola;
17	and
18	WHEREAS, from 1957 to 2007, Mr. Kern served as the captain of the Krewe of
19	Alla; and
20	WHEREAS, while Blaine Kern has been instrumental in the evolution of the New
21	Orleans' Mardi Gras and the development of over eighty krewes worldwide, opening Mardi
22	Gras to everyone is what Mr. Kern cherishes as his proudest achievement; and
23	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern has been recognized by the city of New Orleans, the state of
24	Louisiana, hundreds of charitable organizations, and Holy Cross University, which has
25	named its library in his honor; and
26	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern is deservingly known far and wide as "Mr. Mardi Gras"; and
27	WHEREAS, Mr. Kern is one of Louisiana's finest sons, and his ninetieth birthday is
28	a joyous event that deserves heartfelt congratulations.
29	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
30	commend Blaine S. Kern upon the historic occasion of his ninetieth birthday, does hereby

HLS 17RS-2763

ORIGINAL
HCR NO. 107

- 1 record for posterity the extraordinary life he has lived in the nine decades since his birth,
- 2 does hereby express enduring gratitude for his outstanding accomplishments and the singular
- 3 contributions he has made to his family, friends, community, and state, and does hereby
- 4 extend to him every good wish for health and happiness in the years to come.
- 5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
- 6 to Blaine S. Kern.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 107 Original

2017 Regular Session

Leopold

Commends Blaine S. Kern upon the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.