

2018 First Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley on the one hundredth anniversary of the dedication of its Scottish Rite Cathedral.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate the membership of the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley upon  
3 the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of its Shreveport  
4 Scottish Rite Cathedral.

5 WHEREAS, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley of master masons and officers are  
6 composed of four distinct sections that include the Shreveport Lodge of Perfection, the  
7 Chapter of Rose Croix, the Council of Kadosh, and the Shreveport Consistory, which are  
8 ordered as the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Southern Jurisdiction,  
9 Orient of Louisiana, and Valley of Shreveport; and

10 WHEREAS, Scottish Rite and Freemasonry are woven into the rich history of the  
11 founding fathers of the state of Louisiana and the nation, and the legacy of masonic temples  
12 can be traced back, farther still, to its origins in sixteenth century Europe; and

13 WHEREAS, on March 6, 1910, a gathering of Scottish Rite masons petitioned for  
14 the establishment of a new lodge that would become the L. C. Allen Lodge of Perfection;  
15 these founding thirty-second degree masons were L. E. Thomas, V. L. McCarty, S. J. B.  
16 Whited, A. T. Kahn, Marx M. Levy, A. W. Cheesman, E. R. Bernstein, H. H. Bain, H. I.  
17 Hardy, J. J. Lyons, and P. B. Stedman; and

18 WHEREAS, soon the idea of a flagship masonic cathedral was conceived and

1 executed; designed by noted local architect and mason, Edward F. Neild, the building  
2 expressed the Beaux Arts style with its cornerstone laid in 1915; the cornerstone has an  
3 atypical setting in the northwest corner of the site to facilitate greater visibility by the public;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, at a final cost of \$186,500, its dedication ceremony was held on  
6 November 12, 1917, amid great fanfare, and the occasion was feted with dances and music  
7 recitals accompanied by two pipe organs that are still operational today; the cathedral  
8 remains a majestic architectural wonder that was listed on the National Register of Historic  
9 Places in 1986; and

10 WHEREAS, the following officers were elected to serve as the first official family  
11 of the L. C. Allen Lodge of Perfection: E. R. Bernstein, Venerable Master; L. E. Thomas,  
12 Senior Warden; T. B. Chase, Junior Warden; David B. Samuel, Secretary; A. T. Kahn,  
13 Treasurer; A. W. Cheesman, Almoner; E. Kirby Smith, Orator; and W. H. Booth, Master of  
14 Ceremonies; and

15 WHEREAS, Freemasonic beliefs are grounded in the fatherhood of God, the  
16 brotherhood of man, the immortality of the soul, and the steadfastness of one's accepted  
17 faith; and

18 WHEREAS, the Scottish Rite is a fraternity whose members are drawn from  
19 Freemasons and whose integrity and good character are paramount in daily life without the  
20 stigma of prejudice to race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or nationality and whose duty  
21 is to foster and promote the intangible values of trust, morality, and justice; and

22 WHEREAS, the Scottish Rite Cathedral is one of the most historic and  
23 architecturally beautiful buildings in the south; its appointments include a three-tiered  
24 auditorium, a marble lobby, a pair of marble staircases, banquet hall, DeMolay room,  
25 masonic library, and classrooms for speech therapy; it is the oldest building in downtown  
26 Shreveport that has never changed ownership; and

27 WHEREAS, the cathedral has both modern amenities and well-preserved historic  
28 applications; among these classic appointments are ninety-two original, hand-painted  
29 background scenes or drops that are utilized on stage during degree presentations to convey  
30 masonic symbolism; these drops are enhanced by a wardrobe of pristine original costumes;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Cathedral facilitates the needs of the  
3 community as a reception hall for weddings, musical performances, banquets, and black tie  
4 events; it has even been used as an authentic period movie set for the film industry; and

5 WHEREAS, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley provides opportunities to expand  
6 masonic knowledge and education, to contribute to the improvement of families and  
7 communities, to encourage productive citizenship, and to improve the lives of children  
8 through its various charities, such as RiteCare Scottish Rite Childhood Language Center;  
9 along with its founders, Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley assisted in the establishment of  
10 Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children in Shreveport, the first of its kind in North America;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, in anticipation of its next one hundred years of continued service to the  
13 community and to Freemasonry, the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley will ensconce a time  
14 capsule that shall contain programs, lapel pins, coins, and memorabilia to be unearthed in  
15 another century.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
17 congratulate the Shreveport Scottish Rite Valley on the occasion of the one hundredth  
18 anniversary of the establishment of its Shreveport Scottish Rite Cathedral and does hereby  
19 commend its status as a historic landmark and as a source of great pride in the community.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
21 Gary Gribble, secretary of the Shreveport Scottish Rite Temple.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

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DIGEST

SCR 3 Original

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Peacock

Commends the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Shreveport Scottish Rite Cathedral.