

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 64

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Dillard University upon the occasion of its one hundred fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, the roots of Dillard University were planted in 1869 when philanthropist Seymour Straight was assisted by an abolitionist group, American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church, to found Straight University, one of the first African American universities in Louisiana; in 2017, the Preservation Resource Center completed a renovation of the only remaining edifice of Straight University, which had been built between 1866 and 1871 and served as a boarding house and dining hall; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans University was founded in 1872 by the Methodist Episcopal church; by the early 20th century, New Orleans University and Straight University were beset by insufficient funds, and the administrations of both universities desired to locate closer to the city's black population; and

WHEREAS, the cornerstone of the campus of the combined universities was laid on May 27, 1934, on Gentilly Boulevard, and Dillard University opened for enrollment on September 24, 1935; the architect for the campus, Moise Goldstein, designed the stately main buildings in a classical revival style; its gleaming white buildings are highlighted by formal and ornate landscaping; and

WHEREAS, Dillard University was called "one of the country's most beautiful and serene campuses" by Donna Fricker in a 2003 article in *Preservation in Print* magazine and the university was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 10, 2003; in the nomination, Dillard's statewide significance in the areas of education and African American heritage were cited, and the formal architecture and landscape design of its campus were praised; and

WHEREAS, Dillard University is a source of pride in the higher education community of New Orleans, and it is fitting to recognize the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of an institution that has impacted the lives of all who pass through its portals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the administration, staff, and students upon the one hundred fiftieth anniversary celebration of Dillard University and does hereby extend best wishes for continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Dillard University president, Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES