SLS 19RS-187 ORIGINAL

2019 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the Women's Department Club of Shreveport on its  $100^{\rm th}$  Anniversary.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

## 2 To commend the Women's Department Club of Shreveport upon its one hundredth anniversary and to note the occasion of "A Century of Women" celebration on 3 4 Saturday, May 18, 2019. 5 WHEREAS, established in 1919, when there were limited educational opportunities 6 for females, the Women's Department Club began as an offshoot of the Shreveport Women's 7 Club; and 8 WHEREAS, since its inception, the Women's Department Club has proved to be a 9 setting for creative activity where women may explore new learning experiences, cultivate 10 mental and spiritual growth, and flourish in their environment; and 11 WHEREAS, the club evolved into five broad groups or departments with each focused on a particular interest, such as literature, art, education, gardening, and music; and 12 13 WHEREAS, one of its co-founders, Katherine Jackson French, had earned a 14 doctorate in English literature from Columbia University and had completed post-doctoral 15 studies at Yale University; and her chosen career was that of a teacher of literature at 16 Centenary College of Louisiana during the 1920s; and WHEREAS, Mrs. French became an articulate educator for the first established 17 18 department, which was literature; she lectured for seventeen years in the Shreve Memorial

1	Library in the area now known as the Children's Room; and
2	WHEREAS, as interest and membership grew, the need for a building of their own
3	became of paramount importance; and
4	WHEREAS, the Georgian-style clubhouse was designed by architect Clarence F.
5	King, built at 802 Margaret Place, and opened in 1925; and its beauty and historic
6	significance has garnered placement on the National Register of Historic Places; and
7	WHEREAS, since that time, the clubhouse has feted countless classes and lectures
8	on a wide variety of subjects and has retained a colorful oral history passed from one
9	generation to another; and
10	WHEREAS, within its doors, the beautifully appointed furnishings provide the
11	perfect setting for weddings, receptions, and photography sessions; and
12	WHEREAS, the auditorium has been the showcase for concerts, recitals, plays, and
13	film premieres, and has hosted notable personalities such as First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt,
14	news commentator Edward R. Murrow, poet Robert Frost, film actress Katherine Hepburn,
15	and classical pianist Van Cliburn; and
16	WHEREAS, a schedule of exciting events is offered throughout the year that includes
17	book reviews, fashion shows, socials, and educational programs concerning art, architecture,
18	music, ethnic cuisine, and gourmet cooking techniques; and
19	WHEREAS, the club has a lengthy history of active community participation such
20	as hosting bazaars, dances, and teas as fundraisers, and during World War II, raising over
21	one million dollars in United States war bonds, and purchasing two airplanes for the United
22	States Army Air Corps located at Barksdale Field; and
23	WHEREAS, presently, the Woman's Department Club contributes to the community
24	by supporting local arts and artists, Creswell Elementary School, the Food Bank of
25	Northwest Louisiana, and the pediatric center at Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport; and
26	WHEREAS, on May 18, 2019, the Woman's Department Club shall commemorate
27	its first one hundred years with a spectacular event, "A Century of Women" and the
28	attendees are requested to dress in vintage-era cocktail fashions from the past century; and
29	WHEREAS, the gala evening shall feature vocal performances by soprano Dr. Gail
30	J. Odom, Professor Emeritus from Centenary College of Louisiana; vocalist Seva May; and

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1	the Shreveport-Bossier Choral Ensemble; and
2	WHEREAS, keynote speakers will reveal the elegant history of the club, its founders,
3	and distinguished members; and
4	WHEREAS, the heritage and traditions of the Women's Department Club instill in
5	its members a commitment to personal growth through education and community
6	involvement; and
7	WHEREAS, furthered by intellectual development and social stimulation, the
8	Women's Department Club begins a second century as a fountainhead of progressive thought
9	and positive action that is focused on the strength of women.
10	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11	commend the Women's Department Club of Shreveport upon its one hundredth anniversary
12	and note the occasion of "A Century of Women" celebration on Saturday, May 18, 2019.
13	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
14	congratulate the Women's Department Club on its lasting legacy of enrichment and service.
15	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
16	Brenda Bailey Traylor, President and Sandra Harrold, Centennial Committee Chairman of
17	the Women's Department Club of Shreveport.
	The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part

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of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

Peacock

Commends the Women's Department Club of Shreveport upon its 100th Anniversary.