

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 236

BY SENATOR LONG

A RESOLUTION

To commend St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the occasion of its one hundred seventy-five years of worship.

WHEREAS, in 1819, two years after the incorporation of Baton Rouge, a group of local inhabitants felt the need to establish an Episcopal church in Baton Rouge and began meeting in the area; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 1820, they became incorporated and met from place to place, including on the area that is now the State Capitol grounds, thanks to the determined efforts of several individuals including Margaret "Peggy" Smith Taylor, who sought the permission of her soldier husband, the Garrison Commander Colonel Zachary Taylor, to grant space for a chapel at what is now known as the Pentagon Barracks; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 1844, by Act 97 of the Louisiana Legislature, St. James Episcopal Church was granted a charter to operate as a body and to worship under the laws of the state and in communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, subject to the Ecclesiastical government and decisions of the bishops and Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, they purchased the property at the corner of Convention Street and Church, now Fourth Street, in Baton Rouge, where they constructed a church consecrated by Bishop Leonidas Polk, and have continued to worship there for one hundred seventy-five years; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who are aiding in the molding of the church's reputation today can look to the trials and triumphs of the church's past in order to chart its future; and

WHEREAS, a church that has sustained itself through fires, yellow fever epidemics, the Civil War and Reconstruction, national economic depression, segregation, and integration, and the evolution of the surrounding world is a welcoming congregation; and

WHEREAS, St. James Episcopal Church has established itself to be more than a community of the faithful, but a community of faith.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and recognize St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the occasion of its one hundred seventy-five years of worship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE