

2020 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Shirley Wills on her many years of exemplary civic activism as a community leader and member of the Caddo Parish Police Jury, and congratulates her on the occasion of her 75th birthday.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Shirley Wills on her many years of exemplary civic activism as a community leader and as a member of the Caddo Parish Police Jury, and to congratulate her on the occasion of her seventy-fifth birthday.

WHEREAS, during her tenure as a police juror, from 1978 until 1984, Shirley Wills witnessed an era of extraordinary economic growth and infrastructure construction in Northwest Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, on October 4, 1978, Shirley Wills was sworn in as the first African-American woman elected to serve on the Caddo Parish Police Jury, the predecessor of the Caddo Parish Commission, where she represented the communities of Stoner Hill, Anderson Island, and portions of Allendale and Highland; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the police jury, Shirley Wills successfully brought about improvements in street maintenance, solutions to critical drainage issues, and the increased availability of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, she also played a major role in the equitable reapportionment of local districts within the municipality of Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, after her public service, Shirley has continued in her role as an active participant in community affairs; and

1 WHEREAS, Shirley Wills is a dedicated civil rights activist and an active member
2 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she
3 once served on its Executive Board Committee; and

4 WHEREAS, to promote a closer sense of community and to recognize the good
5 works of past civic activists, Shirley Wills had Stoner Hill Elementary School renamed for
6 an exceptional educator and the school's pioneering principal, Elijah B. Williams; it is now
7 known as the E.B. Williams Stoner Hill Elementary Lab School; and

8 WHEREAS, Shirley Wills sought to honor the community activism and spiritual
9 leadership of the long-time pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church, the Reverend Dr. C.E.
10 Galloway, and with her persistence, Hopewell Street was renamed C.E. Galloway
11 Boulevard; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2006, Shirley dictated an oral history of her activism, culture, and
13 professional life that may be heard at the Norton Art Gallery; and

14 WHEREAS, as a graduate of Shreveport Business College, Shirley was employed
15 by Western Electric, now AT&T, for thirty-two years, beginning in 1969, until her
16 retirement in 2001; and

17 WHEREAS, Shirley was married to the late Joe Robert Wills for fifty-two years until
18 his passing; together they made a Christian family home and reaped the many blessings of
19 God's love; and their union was blessed with two sons, the Reverend Jerard Wills and the
20 late Jerado Wills, and four precious grandchildren; and

21 WHEREAS, Shirley is a long-time member of St. Peter Baptist Church where she
22 is quite active as a Sunday School teacher and as a board member on the Mission and
23 Deaconess boards; and

24 WHEREAS, Shirley Wills is empowered by her faith in God and is encouraged by
25 her favorite scripture from Philippians 4:13:, "I can do all things through Christ, who
26 strengthens me"; and

27 WHEREAS, Shirley Wills is well aware that educational opportunities are vital to
28 the growth and prosperity of any community; she is an avid supporter of the Parent Teacher
29 Student Association (PTSA) at Claiborne Elementary and Queensborough Elementary
30 schools and an active alumnus of Booker T. Washington High School, Class of 1963; and

1 WHEREAS, on Monday, November 4, 2019, along with friends and family
2 members, Shirley Wills celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday and reflected upon a life
3 well-spent in service to her community, her God, and her fellow man.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
5 commend Shirley Wills as a civic leader and community activist of the highest order, does
6 hereby recognize that her activism has contributed immensely to the growth and prosperity
7 of Shreveport and Caddo Parish, does hereby congratulate her on the occasion of her
8 seventy-fifth birthday, and does hereby wish her continued good health and happiness.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
10 Shirley Wills.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

	DIGEST	
SCR 24 Original	2020 Regular Session	Peacock

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