

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Shreveport Shriners Hospital on the occasion of its one hundredth year anniversary as the first Shriners Hospital in the world.

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Shreveport Shriners Hospital will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary as the first Shriners Hospital in the world; and

WHEREAS, a myriad of events, activities, and promotions will be held throughout the year celebrating this tremendous milestone; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, the Shriner fraternity made the momentous decision to create a hospital designed for kids with orthopedic conditions; and

WHEREAS, at the time, polio was quickly becoming a national epidemic, and care for children with congenital orthopedic conditions and injuries was lacking; and

WHEREAS, led by Shriner and Shreveport businessman James Rowland, Louisiana Shriners made a proposal to bring the first hospital to Shreveport, having secured land, funding, and a qualified orthopedic surgeon, which was approved at the national meeting of hospital delegates in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the Shreveport Shriners Hospital opened September 16, 1922, as the first facility of an extraordinary pediatric healthcare effort; and

WHEREAS, although, much has changed in the world from technology, medical breakthroughs, the polio vaccine, and other monumental transformations, the mission of Shriners Children's has remained the same; and

WHEREAS, from their humble beginnings of treating the effects of polio, they now provide specialized care for children with orthopedic conditions, cleft lips and palates, burns, and spinal cord injuries in 21 locations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Shriners Shreveport has provided vital care to a global population of more than one hundred thirty-five thousand, regardless of the families' ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, the system overall has treated more than one million four hundred thousand children; and

WHEREAS, every year Shriners Hospitals for Children selects two national patient ambassadors to represent the healthcare system's patients; and

WHEREAS, one of Shreveport's patients was selected in 2016-2017 for this high honor, Karolina Nogues; and

WHEREAS, Karolina Nogues of Slidell spent the year sharing her story of perseverance in the face of adversity and how Shriners made a dramatic, life-changing difference in her life; and

WHEREAS, Karolina was born in 2000 with a significant limb-length discrepancy involving her left leg that required Karolina to wear a shoe lift that helped compensate for the difference for the first five years of her life; and

WHEREAS, her family searched for a better solution after some physicians suggested amputation and Shriners was the answer; and

WHEREAS, she began the painful, tedious lengthening treatment at age seven that would take nine years and require multiple surgeries and the use of an external fixator that lengthened her leg incrementally by seven inches; and

WHEREAS, now in her last year of undergraduate studies, she is majoring in forensic psychology and applying to graduate schools and is a member of the Western Equestrian Team at University of Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, she is just one of the many success stories of Shriners in Shreveport which serves six states.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Shreveport Shriners Hospital on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary as the first Shriners Hospital in the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Shreveport Shriners Hospital.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES