

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the creators of the film, *The Five Priests*, on being honored as an Official Selection and Monthly Winner at the Cannes World Film Festival for independent filmmakers along with twenty-six other international festivals of note.

WHEREAS, *The Five Priests*, a full-length documentary that recounts the lives of five Roman Catholic priests who died in the 1873 Yellow Fever epidemic in Shreveport and are now Servants of God in the Vatican canonization process, has been honored as an Official Selection and Monthly Winner at the Cannes World Film Festival for independent filmmakers along with twenty-six other international festivals of note; and

WHEREAS, the film was produced by the Louisiana State University-Shreveport Foundation in conjunction with the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans, and directed by Chris Charles Scott of Strategy Films in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the film features the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States (the Vatican ambassador), Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Bishop Francis Malone of the Diocese of Shreveport, Shreveport Mayor Adrian Perkins, Father Peter Mangum of the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans, local author W. Ryan Smith, and Dr. Cheryl White, history professor at Louisiana State University-Shreveport; and

WHEREAS, the documentary is based upon the book, *Shreveport Martyrs of 1873: The Surest Path to Heaven*, authored by Mangum, Smith, and White, and published by The History Press in October 2021; and

WHEREAS, *The Five Priests* premiered at the Strand Theatre in Shreveport on November 4, 2021, and has been enjoying critical acclaim during the current international film festival season; and

WHEREAS, to date, *The Five Priests* is also the winner of Best Feature Documentary at the European Film Festival; Best Documentary, Best Idea for a Documentary, and Best Cinematography in a Documentary at the World Independent Cinema Awards Los Angeles; Best Short Documentary at the Barcelona International Film Festival; Diamond Award for Best Documentary Feature at the SoCal Film Awards; Gold Award for Feature Documentary at the Spotlight Documentary Awards; Award of Excellence at the Indie Fest Film Festival; Honorable Mention: Documentary Feature at the Los Angeles Film Awards; Finalist Feature Documentary at the Texas Film Festival; and Semi-Finalist Feature Documentary at the New York International Film Awards; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the film is currently an Official Selection of the Rome Prisma Independent Film Festival, and the Nieves International Christian Film Festival.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and congratulate the creators of the film, *The Five Priests*, on their multiple award winnings, in addition to being honored as an Official Selection and Monthly Winner at the Cannes World Film Festival for independent filmmakers along with twenty-six other international festivals of note.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana State University-Shreveport Foundation and the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES