

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY SENATOR HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Edna B. and Joyce Fay Washington Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. on celebrating its 30th year anniversary on Saturday, June 1, 2024, at the New Orleans East Hospital located at 5620 Read Boulevard.

WHEREAS, the Foundation's mission is to promote healing through culturally sensitive programs that address the educational, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of medically underserved women; and

WHEREAS, the Edna B. and Joyce Fay Washington Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.'s philosophy is: Faith + Love + Knowledge + Empowerment = WELLNESS; and

WHEREAS, in order to achieve its mission and philosophy, the Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization that is committed to providing free mammograms to medically uninsured and underinsured women in the Miss-Lou area; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, founder Joyce Fay Washington relocated to Natchez, MS, where she broadened services to breast cancer survivors which now includes New Orleans and Vidalia, Louisiana, and Natchez, Mississippi, referred to as the Miss-Lou service areas; and

WHEREAS, the very first program organized by the Edna B. and Joyce Fay Washington Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. was a support group titled "Sisters In Touch" which encouraged survivors to share concerns and experiences following their diagnosis with lectures from guest speakers, heart to heart discussions, and even games; and

WHEREAS, the foundation's growth has resulted in it sponsoring a sundry of effective programs for survivors, including, but not limited to: "After Breast Cancer: A Prescription for Empowerment"; "Greener Pastures ... A Healthy Beginning"; "Quiet Storm: A Health Fair for a Healthier Community"; "Love Me ... Cause I'm Special"; "Look at the Woman in the Mirror: An Opportunity to Nurture the Spiritual and Physical You", and "Journey to Save A Life"; and

WHEREAS, since the establishment of the "Journey to Save A Life" program, and in partnership with the Merit Health Natchez Hospital in 2021, the foundation has provided more than four hundred twenty-five mammograms and twenty-five sonograms for free to women in the Miss-Lou area; and

WHEREAS, the current members of the foundations' board of directors are: Dr. Gemma Beckley of Holly Springs, Mississippi, Lynn Buggage of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and serving as CEO is Joyce Fay Washington Ivery; and

WHEREAS, additional board members are from Louisiana: Eloise Dixon and Carolyn Spruille of New Orleans, and Cynthia White of Lake Charles; and

WHEREAS, the Edna B. and Joyce Fay Washington Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. has played an instrumental and vital role in providing information to the women in the Miss-Lou region through lectures and sisterhood meetings on exercise, proper nutrition, breast self-exams, and free mammograms to the medically uninsured and underinsured for thirty years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the Edna B. and Joyce Fay Washington Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc. upon celebrating its 30th year anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Edna B. and Joyce Fay Washington Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.'s Board of Directors.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE