

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 129

BY SENATOR FOIL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge on the occasion of one hundred eighty years of worship.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on the occasion of its
3 one hundred eighty years of worship.

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, they purchased the property at the corner of Convention Street and

1 Church, now Fourth Street, in Baton Rouge, where they constructed a church consecrated
2 by Bishop Leonidas Polk, and have continued to worship there for one hundred eighty years;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, as one of the largest parishes in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, St.
5 James assumed a local leadership role in the Baton Rouge area by assisting with the
6 establishment of all the other Episcopal churches within the Baton Rouge Deanery; and

7 WHEREAS, in an effort to increase communication and understanding throughout
8 the entire Baton Rouge faith community, St. James served as one of the founding churches
9 of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge, one the oldest interfaith organizations
10 in the nation and one of the few in the Deep South; and

11 WHEREAS, one of St. James' many ministries is the operation of St. James
12 Episcopal Day School, recognized three times by the United States Department of Education
13 as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence; and

14 WHEREAS, the Day School recently celebrated seventy-five years of operation; and

15 WHEREAS, St. James and its parishioners led the effort to establish Episcopal High
16 School college preparatory school and St. James Place, a well-respected total life-care
17 retirement community; and

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

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

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
24 Reverend Christopher Duncan, Rector, and Senior Warden Ben Dampf of St. James
25 Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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

SR 129 Original

DIGEST
2024 Regular Session

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Commends St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge, LA, on the occasion of its 180
years of worship.