

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 54

BY SENATOR MILLS AND REPRESENTATIVES TERRY LANDRY AND BARRAS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends the city of New Iberia, Louisiana for being nationally recognized as a 2013 historic rebound town by Cable News Network.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend the city of New Iberia, Louisiana for being nationally recognized as a 2013
3 historic rebound town by Cable News Network (CNN).

4 WHEREAS, in March 2013, CNN reviewed small towns across the nation that were
5 commended for their inspirational, small town come back tales; and

6 WHEREAS, CNN writer, Jordan Rane, listed New Iberia, Louisiana as a historic
7 rebound town, naming the city as "Reborn on the bayou"; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1779 the city of New Iberia was founded by a group of five hundred
9 colonists who established a settlement around Spanish Lake, and originally called the town
10 "Nueva Iberia" in honor of the Iberia Peninsula, and the French referred to the town as
11 "Nouvelle Iberie" while the American settlers called it "New Town"; and

12 WHEREAS, the vintage bayou town's main street was a barren row of boarded-up
13 shops for an estimated ten years, with decaying landmark art deco theaters like The
14 Evangeline; and

15 WHEREAS, the city's latest renaissance has produced a Great American Street
16 Award and a revitalized commercial district featuring popular Cajun and Creole eateries,
17 rows of exciting new shopping experiences, as well as the beautifully restored Evangeline
18 Theater, renamed the Sliman Theater, that hosts live concerts that attract fans from across

1 the United States and abroad; and

2 WHEREAS, numerous high points still color New Iberia, including the pin-up
3 antebellum mansion known as Shadows on the Teche, the world renowned Tabasco factory,
4 and the two-hundred fifty acre Jungle Gardens at Avery Island, Louisiana, seven miles south
5 of New Iberia; and

6 WHEREAS, New Iberia, Louisiana, is listed as one of eight cities across the country
7 noted for its community efforts to revive the local economy, making the city and its people
8 a popular attraction; and

9 WHEREAS, the city is listed alongside Coronado, California, "The little peninsula
10 that could"; Paducah Kentucky "Small town with big art"; Frederick, Maryland, "After the
11 flood-cute, shopping"; Ely, Nevada, "The mettle of nowhere"; Deland, Florida, "Classic
12 revivalist"; and El Dorado, Arkansas, "Raising the boom"; and

13 WHEREAS, Greater Iberia Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Janet Faulk-
14 Gonzales indicated that in 2005, New Iberia was the first city in Louisiana to be awarded the
15 Great American Main Street Award; and

16 WHEREAS, credited for her planning and zoning, City Director Jane Braud works
17 to make New Iberia a tourist destination to visitors and residents alike; and

18 WHEREAS, New Iberia Mayor Hilda Curry indicates CNN's spotlight is a
19 tremendous honor for the city and praises all investors, business owners, workers, residents
20 and visitors who contributed to this distinction; and

21 WHEREAS, Jane Braud indicates by 1993, twelve historic buildings were vacant and
22 in dire need of repair, while business owners, the Main Street Program, and local
23 government were asked to invest in restoration projects; and

24 WHEREAS, what is unique about New Iberia's revitalization is that investors are
25 moving into restored buildings and remain deeply invested in the city; and

26 WHEREAS, Fran Thibodeaux, executive director of the Iberia Parish Convention
27 and Visitor's Bureau, indicates this is the second time that CNN has recognized New Iberia
28 as an amazing city.

29 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
30 does hereby extend its highest commendations to the city of New Iberia, Louisiana, for being

1 recognized as a 2013 historic rebound town by Cable News Network.

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
3 Chamber President, Janet Faulk-Gonzales, City Director of Planning and Zoning, Jane
4 Braud, Mayor Hilda Curry, and Executive Director of the Iberia Parish Convention and
5 Visitors Bureau, Fran Thibodeaux.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Michelle Broussard-Johnson.

DIGEST

Mills

SCR No. 54

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historic rebound town by CNN.