HLS 13RS-3617 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2013

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 182

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAINES, BADON, BARROW, WESLEY BISHOP, BROSSETT, BURRELL, COX, DIXON, FRANKLIN, HONORE, HUNTER, GIROD JACKSON, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, TERRY LANDRY, NORTON, PIERRE, PRICE, SMITH, THIERRY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, AND PATRICK WILLIAMS AND SENATORS BROOME, BROWN, DORSEY-COLOMB, GALLOT, GUILLORY, MORRELL, MURRAY, PETERSON, AND TARVER

COMMENDATIONS: Commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the 1963 Birmingham church bombing in which four black girls were killed

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the deaths of Addie Mae Collins, Denise
3	McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, the four young women who were
4	murdered in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham,
5	Alabama.
6	WHEREAS, on Sunday, September 15, 1963, the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denice
7	McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley were taken suddenly by a bomb planted in
8	the basement of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama; and
9	WHEREAS, these four young women arrived at church early to prepare for Sunday
10	School when the dynamite hidden under a bathroom by white supremacists detonated and
11	killed all four of them; and
12	WHEREAS, the senseless and premature deaths of Addie Mae Collins, Denise
13	McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley served as a catalyst for the Civil Rights
14	Movement; and
15	WHEREAS, on that tragic Sunday in 1963, the world took notice of the violence that
16	was being inflicted in the struggle for equal rights; and

1	WHEREAS, this tragedy galvanized the Civil Rights Movement and sparked a surge
2	of momentum that helped secure the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting
3	Rights Act of 1965; and
4	WHEREAS, justice was delayed for these four young martyrs and their families until
5	2002, thirty-nine years after the bombing, when the last of the four klansmen responsible for
6	the bombing was charged and convicted of the crime; and
7	WHEREAS, these four young women are emblematic of so many who have lost their
8	lives for the cause of freedom and equality, including Virgil Ware and James Johnny
9	Robinson, two children who were also killed within hours of the 1963 church bombing; and
10	WHEREAS, these young women were eulogized by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.,
11	and he was invited, along with the victims' families and other civil rights leaders, by
12	President John F. Kennedy to the White House for one of the many meetings that led to the
13	Voting Rights Act and Civil Rights Act; and
14	WHEREAS, the legacy that these four young women left will live on in our minds
15	and hearts for generations to come; and
16	WHEREAS, the extraordinary sacrifice of these innocent lives sparked real and
17	lasting changes as congress began to aggressively pass legislation that ensured equality; and
18	WHEREAS, Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, which served as a meeting place for
19	civil rights organizers, remains a powerful symbol of the movement for civil and human
20	rights, and the church will host a ceremony to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing
21	on Sunday, September 15, 2013; and
22	WHEREAS, on Friday, May 24, 2013, President Barack Obama signed legislation
23	that bestowed the highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, upon Addie Mae
24	Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley; and
25	WHEREAS, these young women who gave the ultimate sacrifice merit the highest
26	measure of commendation and it is fitting to honor the four little black girls, as they became
27	known, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley,
28	posthumously in recognition of the fiftieth commemoration of the historical significance of
29	the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

1 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 2 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Sixteenth 3 Street Baptist Church bombing in which the lives of Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, 4 Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley were tragically taken, does hereby express to their 5 families the deepest sympathy of the state of Louisiana for the loss of these young women 6 who made the ultimate sacrifice for equality, does hereby recognize their deaths as a catalyst 7 for the "Movement that Changed the World" that galvanized momentum to help secure the 8 passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and does hereby 9 record for posterity the immense pride that the memory of these four courageous, young 10 women will forever bring to their friends and families, the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, the city of Birmingham, the state of Alabama, and the United States of America. 12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted 13 to William A. Bell, Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Gaines HCR No. 182

Commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the 1963 Birmingham church bombing in which four black girls, Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, were killed.