

2016 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR LONG

SENATE. Recognizes April 28, 2016, as The Gideons International Day at the State Capitol.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize April 28, 2016, as The Gideons International Day at the State Capitol.

3 WHEREAS, The Gideons International was founded in 1899, serves as an extended
4 missionary arm of the church, and is the oldest association of Christian businessmen and
5 professional men in the United States of America; and

6 WHEREAS, in the fall of 1898, John H. Nicholson of Janesville, Wisconsin, came
7 to the Central Hotel at Boscobel, Wisconsin, and, because the hotel was full and crowded,
8 he was asked to take a bed in a double room with Samuel E. Hill of Beloit, Wisconsin; and

9 WHEREAS, the two men soon discovered that both were Christians, and after their
10 evening devotions together and on their knees before God, the thoughts were given which
11 later developed into an association; and

12 WHEREAS, on May 31, 1899, the two men met again at Beaver Dam, Wisconsin,
13 where they concluded to band Christian commercial travelers together for mutual
14 recognition, personal evangelism, and united service for the Lord; and

15 WHEREAS, they decided to call a meeting in Janesville, Wisconsin, on July 1, 1899,
16 in the Y.M.C.A.; and

17 WHEREAS, only three men were present at that first meeting: John H. Nicholson,
18 Samuel E. Hill, and Will J. Knights; and

1 WHEREAS, they organized with Mr. Hill as president, Mr. Knights as vice president,
2 and Mr. Nicholson as secretary and treasurer; and

3 WHEREAS, much thought and prayer was given to what the name of the association
4 should be, and after special prayer, Mr. Knights arose from his knees and said, "We shall be
5 called Gideons", he then read the sixth and seventh chapters of the book of Judges, which
6 explained the reason for adopting that name; and

7 WHEREAS, almost all of the Gideons in the early years were traveling men, and the
8 question arose regarding how they might be more effective witnesses in the hotels where
9 they spent so much of their time, one trustee suggested that the Gideons furnish a Bible for
10 each bedroom of the hotels in the United States, and this began the "Bible Project"; and

11 WHEREAS, it has been just over one hundred years since The Gideons International
12 placed the first Bible in a hotel room in Montana; and

13 WHEREAS, Bibles and New Testaments are placed in hotels, motels, hospitals,
14 convalescent homes, medical offices, domestic violence centers, prisons, and jails, and are
15 personally distributed by members of The Gideons International to groups such as students
16 in the fifth grade and above, prisoners, police, fire, medical, military personnel, and anyone
17 else the Gideons witness to individually; and

18 WHEREAS, today there are over 300,000 Gideons and Auxiliary members (wives
19 of Gideons) in more than eleven thousand nine hundred local groups worldwide, and
20 organized in more than one hundred ninety countries around the globe; and

21 WHEREAS, Bibles and New Testaments are printed for distribution by The Gideons
22 International in more than ninety languages; and

23 WHEREAS, between 1999 and 2013, over one billion scriptures were shared, which
24 were more scriptures than in the previous ninety years; and

25 WHEREAS, over two billion Bibles and New Testaments have been distributed
26 worldwide since 1908, more than one billion Bibles and New Testaments were distributed
27 in the last fourteen years, and more than eighty-eight million copies of God's Word were
28 distributed just last year; and

29 WHEREAS, with the support of The Gideons International, the Louisiana Gideons
30 have more than fifty Gideon camps in the state of Louisiana; and

1 WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities,
2 and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon dedicated
3 individuals and organizations like the Gideons.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
5 does hereby recognize April 28, 2016, as The Gideons International Day at the State Capitol.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
7 Louisiana Gideons and The Gideons International.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

	DIGEST	
SR 70 Original	2016 Regular Session	Long

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