

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

BY SENATOR BROOME AND REPRESENTATIVE BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To declare October 1, 2011, as World Peace Day in the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the members of the Legislature of Louisiana recognize the need to address violence in all its forms throughout the world, including violence within families and communities and violence among nations and cultures, in order that the people of Louisiana and the rest of the world may benefit; and

WHEREAS, there is a universal desire among all people for peace within families, peace within communities, peace among nations, and peace within the human heart; and

WHEREAS, people from all walks of life throughout the world have long struggled against the use of violence and have promoted peace among individuals and nations; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of All Nations, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation, permanently chartered by the regents of the state of New York, which began under the co-chairmanship of former United States Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and former United Nations Ambassador Arthur S. Lall, with Dr. Rama C. Mohanty of Louisiana, as general secretary, adopted a resolution that World Peace Day be observed internationally each October first; and

WHEREAS, observance of World Peace Day in Louisiana began in 1998 and is designed to raise mass awareness against violence at home and abroad, to recall the innocent victims of violence and to show support for their families, and to recognize and promote peace workers, peacemakers, and peace organizations that have struggled and continue to strive to end violence, to improve the human condition, and to bring about greater peace and well-being to communities, families, and individuals in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana World Peace Day Committee, comprised of

representatives from various religions, religious organizations, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds, plans activities to observe World Peace Day including exhibits at the State Capitol, panel discussions and forums, and interfaith ceremonies and encourages World Peace Day observance by local communities, schools, workplaces, families, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the committee has as its mission to create and promote awareness in the minds of people all over the world about caring and respect for each other as being in the interest of the individual; to recognize and honor those who have worked and continue to work for these ideas and values; to promote widespread awareness of and increased support against violence; and to recognize peacemakers, peace workers, and peace organizations that have worked and continue to work to end violence; and

WHEREAS, the World Peace Day Committee seeks to bring greater peace and well-being to communities, families, and individuals in Louisiana and across the world, with its theme - "World Peace Begins with You and Me"; and

WHEREAS, the committee has annually sponsored exhibits during October in the Rotunda of the State Capitol and will again do so this year, featuring the exhibit entitled "Century of Women", highlighting women who have taken a leading role in the quest for global security and equal rights, based on the awareness that the continuing empowerment of women throughout the world is key to solving the world's most pressing issues; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, the World Peace Day Committee has partnered with the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, to encourage students to submit an entry describing his or her vision and ideas of world peace through art, essay, music, poem, picture, or video, with selected entries being placed on display in the Rotunda of the State Capitol during October; and

WHEREAS, people, communities, organizations, churches, chapels, temples, synagogues, mosques, and other institutions of worship are urged to come together in conferences, forums, workshops, and conventions on October 1, 2011, to create mass awareness against violence, to honor those who have worked and continue to work in the promotion of peace, and to joyfully celebrate the message of peace with open hearts and minds.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby declare October 1, 2011, as World Peace Day in the state of Louisiana, does hereby commend and encourage continued diligence against violence in this state and throughout the nation, and does hereby urge all citizens and all community organizations of Louisiana to join in this observance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana World Peace Day Committee.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES