

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAROFALO AND BARROW

COMMENDATIONS: Commends the Chalmette Refinery for 100 years of operation in St. Bernard Parish

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend the Chalmette Refinery for one hundred years of operation in St. Bernard  
3 Parish, Louisiana, and the commitment to Louisiana demonstrated by such a long-  
4 standing operation.

5 WHEREAS, House Resolution No. 11 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana  
6 Legislature has declared Monday, April 20, 2015, as ExxonMobil Day at the Louisiana State  
7 Capitol, recognizing the invaluable contributions its operations have made to the economy  
8 of the state of Louisiana and to the prosperity of its citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, one of the facilities demonstrating this long-standing commitment to  
10 the state of Louisiana is the Chalmette Refinery operated by ExxonMobil and jointly owned  
11 with Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. and located in Chalmette, Louisiana in St. Bernard Parish  
12 where a small refinery operated by Chalmette Petroleum first opened in 1915, but later grew  
13 into a medium-sized refinery located on four hundred acres of land along the Mississippi  
14 River near the Chalmette National Historical Park, site of the last major battle of the War of  
15 1812; and

16 WHEREAS, in the post-Katrina world of St. Bernard Parish, the Chalmette Refinery  
17 has been an essential element of recovery for the region, first serving as the command post  
18 for hurricane response due to the fact that the refinery sits on the high ground in St. Bernard  
19 Parish but also as the recovery began, ExxonMobil and the ExxonMobil Foundation, in an  
20 effort to help the community around one of its major facilities in Louisiana, stepped up to  
21 help the recovery effort through the donation of \$23 million for hurricane recovery with \$10

1 million to be used specifically for New Orleans area schools, including \$4.2 million for St.  
2 Bernard Parish schools and \$2 million for a new cultural arts center for the school district;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the original Chalmette Refinery was built at a time when their main  
5 product was kerosene for lighting purposes but with the advent of the automobile and gas  
6 engines, gasoline soon became the predominant product of the refinery, gasoline that was  
7 originally used primarily to fuel boats for the movement of produce and fruits along the  
8 Mississippi River by affiliated companies owned by the Vaccaro brothers, Joseph, Felix, and  
9 Luca, who changed the name of the refinery to the Chalmette Oil and Refining Company;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, the Chalmette Petroleum Corp, with a refining capacity at the time of  
12 7,500 barrels per day, was acquired in 1944 by Bay Petroleum who held the refinery until  
13 1953 when it was sold to Tennessee Gas whose president, Henry Gardner Symonds, began  
14 an expansion of the refinery that resulted in a 35,000 barrel per day crude unit; a catalytic  
15 cracking unit capacity of 18,000 barrels per day; and an alkylation capacity of 2,500 barrels  
16 per day; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1988, Tenneco Oil Company sold the Chalmette Refinery to the  
18 Mobil Corporation, a corporation that, in 1998, merged with Exxon and brought the  
19 Chalmette Refinery to the newly merged corporation known as ExxonMobil; and

20 WHEREAS, the designation of ExxonMobil Day at the Louisiana State Capitol  
21 recognizes that ExxonMobil and its thousands of employees and retirees further demonstrate  
22 their commitment to the state of Louisiana by taking an active role in the betterment of  
23 communities throughout the state of Louisiana by providing tens of thousands of volunteer  
24 hours annually to numerous nonprofit organizations and local food banks as well as  
25 providing financial support to dozens of educational, environmental, cultural, and  
26 humanitarian groups through charitable contributions and matching grants; and

27 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana hopes for another hundred years of the  
28 continued operation of the Chalmette Refinery in the same manner as in the past, that is, in  
29 a manner heavily participating in and supportive of the community around the refinery.

1           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
2   Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Chalmette Refinery for one hundred  
3   years of operation in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, and for its continuing contributions to  
4   the economy and the prosperity of the citizens and workers in St. Bernard Parish.

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
6   to the Chalmette Refinery.

---

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)]

---

HR 32 Original

2015 Regular Session

Garofalo

Commends the Chalmette Refinery for 100 years of operation in St. Bernard Parish and for its continuing contributions to the economy and the prosperity of the citizens and workers in St. Bernard Parish.