

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 123

BY SENATORS CONNICK, ABRAHAM, ALLAIN, BARROW, BERNARD, BOUDREAUX, BOUIE, CARTER, CLOUD, CORTEZ, FESI, FIELDS, FOIL, HARRIS, HENRY, HENSGENS, HEWITT, LAMBERT, LUNEAU, MCMATH, MILLIGAN, FRED MILLS, ROBERT MILLS, MIZELL, MORRIS, PEACOCK, POPE, PRICE, REESE, SMITH, TALBOT, TARVER, WARD, WHITE AND WOMACK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Sergeant Stephen Rhodes for his dedicated service and heroic actions in rescuing nine people from a capsized vessel.

WHEREAS, Sergeant Stephen Rhodes was patrolling on Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish on May 7, 2022, when he observed a vessel with numerous passengers in distress near the rock jetties and taking on water; and

WHEREAS, nearby Good Samaritans shuttled Sergeant Rhodes to his truck and patrol vessel in order to effect a rescue; and

WHEREAS, after launching his patrol vessel and arriving on scene, Sergeant Rhodes found eight people clustered on the overturned vessel's hull and learned that a seven-year-old girl was still underwater; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Rhodes immediately dropped his patrol gear and dove in to search for the girl under the capsized vessel; he quickly found her but she was unresponsive; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of the Good Samaritans, Sergeant Rhodes lifted the little girl onto his enforcement vessel, where he began CPR to revive her; and

WHEREAS, after two rounds of performing CPR, Sergeant Rhodes noticed eye movement, then a heartbeat, and finally the movement of her chest as she began to breathe again; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Rhodes secured the girl in his vessel and sped to the nearby Bridge Side Marina, where paramedics were waiting to airlift her to Children's Hospital in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stay in the hospital, the young girl has fully recovered and returned home; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Rhodes is a fifteen-year veteran of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division, who has dedicated his career to educating the public on safe boating practices and enforcing boating safety laws; he is recognized by his supervisors and coworkers as a professional, dedicated to the community he serves and the mission of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Sergeant Stephen Rhodes on his years of dedicated service and on the selflessness and bravery he personified on May 7, 2022, when he rescued nine people from their capsized vessel and saved the life of a seven-year-old girl.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Sergeant Stephen Rhodes.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE