

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 72

BY REPRESENTATIVE ORGERON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Sophia Patout and Layla Porter on winning the Future Farmers of America building communities national championship award for their Coastal Restoration Heroes program

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Sophia Patout and Layla Porter on winning a Future Farmers of America
3 national championship competition for their Coastal Restoration Heroes program.

4 WHEREAS, Louisiana continues to experience coastal land loss at a rate of
5 approximately ten square miles per year, posing a significant threat to the environment,
6 economy, and communities of the state, including Ascension Parish; and

7 WHEREAS, Sophia Patout and Layla Porter, members of the St. Amant High School
8 Future Farmers of America Chapter, started a Coastal Restoration Heroes program in 2022,
9 focused on coastal restoration on West Grand Terre Island; and

10 WHEREAS, Sophia and Layla sought to create a program for students to actively
11 participate in coastal restoration efforts by working with Restore or Retreat Inc. to plant
12 native *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass) and *Avicennia germinans* (black mangroves)
13 on the barrier island to support shoreline stabilization and erosion control, foster ecosystem
14 recovery and resilience, and create hurricane buffers; and

15 WHEREAS, these students not only met, but exceeded the program goals by
16 partnering with multiple restoration organizations, mobilizing student volunteers for field
17 restoration activities, and planting more than six thousand native plants by March of 2025,
18 protecting and enhancing approximately eighteen acres of backside interior saltmarsh; and

1 WHEREAS, these efforts not only reflect a strong commitment to preserving
2 Louisiana's coast, but also serve as an inspirational model for youth engagement in
3 environmental conservation; and

4 WHEREAS, the Future Farmers of America national chapter awards program
5 recognizes outstanding chapters that show innovation in growing leaders, strengthening
6 agriculture, and building communities; and

7 WHEREAS, in recognition of their exceptional hard work and initiative, Sophia and
8 Layla won the building communities division national championship award from the Future
9 Farmers of America for the Coastal Restoration Heroes program they created.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
11 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Sophia Patout and Layla Porter on their
12 exceptional leadership, environmental stewardship, and civic responsibility and for winning
13 the Future Farmers of America building communities national championship for their
14 Coastal Restoration Heroes program.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
16 Sophia Patout and Layla Porter.

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 72 Original

2026 Regular Session

Orgeron

Commends Sophia Patout and Layla Porter for their Coastal Restoration Heroes program and for winning a Future Farmers of American national championship competition.