

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 323

BY REPRESENTATIVE EDMONSTON

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs and volunteers; to recognize the contributions of CASA volunteers across the state; to honor James Barse of CASA Jefferson as the Volunteer Advocate of the Year; to honor Ja'Nika Stanley of Capital Area CASA as the Heart of Advocacy Award recipient; and to designate Wednesday, May 27, 2026, as CASA Day at the Capitol.

WHEREAS, the people of Louisiana pride themselves on giving back to their communities and contributing to the improvement of the quality of life of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, CASA programs in Louisiana, in association with the National CASA/GAL Association for Children, speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children; and

WHEREAS, CASA volunteers are trained community members appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interests of children who have experienced abuse or neglect and who are involved in the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana CASA programs and volunteers provide a powerful voice for children and work to ensure that each child's needs, safety, well-being, and path to a safe and permanent home remain at the center of the court process; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent reporting year, Louisiana CASA programs served three thousand seven hundred forty-four children with the support of one thousand four hundred fourteen CASA volunteers; and

WHEREAS, those CASA volunteers contributed forty-two thousand four hours of volunteer service, with an estimated value of one million five hundred eighteen thousand twenty-four dollars; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana's CASA programs and volunteers merit a special measure of commendation for their outstanding work on behalf of children and families across the state; and

WHEREAS, James Barse of CASA Jefferson has been named the Volunteer Advocate of the Year in recognition of his outstanding commitment, passion, and dedication to improving the lives of the children he serves; the Volunteer Advocate of the Year Award recognizes a CASA advocate who has demonstrated exceptional skill in advocating for the best interests of a CASA child and who has gone above and beyond in the role of CASA volunteer advocate; and

WHEREAS, Ja'Nika Stanley of Capital Area CASA has been named the Heart of Advocacy Award recipient in recognition of her resilience, determination, and strength as a CASA-served former foster youth who rose above difficult circumstances to build a hopeful and healthy future; and

WHEREAS, CASA Day at the Capitol provides an important opportunity to recognize the essential role of CASA programs and volunteers in Louisiana's child welfare and judicial systems and to raise awareness of the continued need for advocacy on behalf of children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Court Appointed Special Advocate programs across the state and the CASA volunteers who give tirelessly of their time and energy to serve as powerful voices for children; does hereby recognize and honor James Barse of CASA Jefferson as the Volunteer Advocate of the Year and Ja'Nika Stanley of Capital Area CASA as the Heart of Advocacy Award recipient; and does hereby designate Wednesday, May 27, 2026, as CASA Day at the Capitol and encourages continued support for CASA programs and the children and families they serve throughout Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES