

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 108

BY SENATOR ADLEY AND REPRESENTATIVE HENRY BURNS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Madison Waldron on being selected as one of two youth volunteers in Louisiana to receive the 2014 nineteenth annual Prudential Spirit of Community Award in recognition of her outstanding record of volunteer service from The National Association of Secondary School Principals and Prudential Financial.

WHEREAS, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program represents the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, all public and private middle level and high schools in the country, as well as all Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs and HandsOn Network affiliates, were eligible to select a student or member for a local Prudential Spirit of Community Award; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award, presented by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, honors young volunteers across the United States who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to serving their communities; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide program, in its nineteenth year, recognizes young people for outstanding, self-initiated community service; and

WHEREAS, Madison Waldron is a thirteen year old eighth grade student at Haughton Middle School and has worked tirelessly in her community since she was nine to raise awareness and provide assistance for the homeless dog population which is an epidemic in her area; and

WHEREAS, after visiting a local animal shelter at age nine with her mother, it came to her attention that not all dogs had loving, happy homes and she has been on a mission ever since to change that fact; and

WHEREAS, Madison's first fundraiser (an iced tea stand) raised sixty dollars in an afternoon which she used to purchase food, treats and toys for dogs at her local shelter; and

WHEREAS, Madison has since held two more fundraising events she named "Pennies 4 Pups" which solicited spare change, donations and supplies for the shelter; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2012, Madison began partnering with Louisiana Baby Mommas (LABM) a nonprofit organization that rescues expectant mother dogs and puppies from kill shelters or abusive situations across the state and places them with foster families; and

WHEREAS, to date, Madison has fostered over one hundred-fifty puppies and mother dogs, and has successfully placed them in permanent homes through her tireless efforts; and

WHEREAS, when Madison began fostering, she quickly realized that in addition to the love and care involved, there were associated expenses that needed to be funded in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, to meet those needs, Madison started a campaign to raise money called "Keep Your Paws Clean" where she personalized hand sanitizers with cut vinyl and ribbon for donations; her campaign was very well received and in a little over eight weeks she was able to donate \$2,900 to LABM for the costs and care of the dogs, and to date, she has raised close to \$9,200, including cash, food, treats, toys, towels, collars, and leashes; and

WHEREAS, every day Madison strives to improve the lives of homeless and foster dogs by her work fostering, fundraising and encouraging and promoting adoption from local rescues and shelters; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary young woman exemplifies the spirit of community that is so important to the future of our state, cities, towns, and neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depends, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Madison Waldron who use their compassionate hearts, considerable talents and resources to help others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana commends and congratulates Madison Waldron on being chosen as the Louisiana Middle School Level State Honoree for the 2014 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and recognizes her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership and community spirit, and extends to her best wishes for continued success and happiness in her future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
Madison Waldron.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES