

Regular Session, 2014

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SENATORS ADLEY, AMEDEE, BUFFINGTON, DORSEY-COLOMB, LAFLEUR,
LONG, RISER AND WHITE

COMMENDATIONS. Commends recipients of the 2014 Louisiana Young Heroes Awards -
Caroline Beard, Joshua Castille, Kamryn "Kami" Chauncy, Cody Crews, Morgan Gautreau,
Elizabeth Kasongo, Andrew Matthews, and Isaac McFarland.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate the recipients of the 2014 Louisiana Young Heroes Awards.

3 WHEREAS, this year six high school students and two middle school students were
4 chosen as the 2014 Louisiana Young Heroes Award recipients; and

5 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Young Heroes Awards are given each year to students in
6 grades seven through twelve who have excelled in academics and public service while
7 overcoming adversity in their own lives and serve as an inspiration to others through their
8 actions and strength of character; and

9 WHEREAS, these awards are presented by Louisiana Public Broadcasting and the
10 Rotary Club of Baton Rouge and underwritten this year by Acadian Companies, Blue Cross
11 and Blue Shield of Louisiana, CenturyLink, and the Credit Bureau of Baton Rouge
12 Foundation; and

13 WHEREAS, this year's Young Heroes are Caroline Beard, Joshua Castille, Kamryn
14 "Kami" Chauncy, Cody Crews, Morgan Gautreau, Elizabeth Kasongo, Andrew Matthews,
15 and Isaac McFarland; and

16 WHEREAS, seventh grader and skilled artist Caroline Beard, overcame cancer and
17 the loss of vision in her left eye, had a Christmas ornament she designed in 2005 selected
18 by Oprah Winfrey as one of her 100 gifts for that year and her artwork continues to be a top
19 seller for St. Jude Hospital's fundraising efforts; and

1 WHEREAS, despite senior Joshua Castille's long list of health challenges, he finds
2 the time to organize and host Archery Shoots that raise money for Dreams Come True, a
3 nonprofit organization dedicated to granting the dreams of children with life-threatening
4 illnesses; and

5 WHEREAS, freshman Kami Chauncy, also a cancer survivor, has dedicated her
6 efforts to raising money through collecting aluminum can tabs, sponsoring Relay for Life
7 teams since 2007, and along with her classmates, spear-headed the drive to get the State of
8 Louisiana to allow the St. Jude license plate to be sold as an official license plate in
9 Louisiana, further raising money for the charity; and

10 WHEREAS, after being attacked by a large dog during the Hurricane Rita relief
11 efforts that caused serious damage to his face, mouth and tongue, sophomore Cody Crews,
12 initiated the Send a Book On Safari program to help children in Africa learn English, reads
13 to children in daycares after school, and joined his sister, Cassidy, in the Soles4Soles
14 program to collect shoes for the less fortunate; and

15 WHEREAS, despite multiple surgeries and her on going struggle with Spina Bifida,
16 eighth grader Morgan Gautreau set up a program called Making a Difference With Morgan
17 and raised eighteen thousand dollars for research into a cause and cure for Spina Bifida; and

18 WHEREAS, junior Elizabeth Kasongo and her family narrowly escaped from the
19 Congo after they were marked for death during the genocide in the African country; now
20 living in Baton Rouge, she is writing a book about her family's story, became active in the
21 pro-life movement and collects food and other items for the less fortunate in her community;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, after being born three and a half months early and struggling with a long
24 list of physical issues and challenges, junior Andrew Matthews now volunteers with
25 Vacation Bible School, serves as an athletic trainer and has become a certified Louisiana
26 State First Responder; and as part of the EMS Explorer Program, he volunteered more than
27 four hundred hours in his first year and received the Explorer Post 912 Service Award; and

28 WHEREAS, when junior Isaac McFarland learned that one out of three children in
29 Louisiana do not receive meals on a consistent basis, he started Game Changers Let's Tackle
30 Hunger, for which he received a national grant to get officials, celebrities, classmates, junior
31 ranchers and other interested parties on board to donate more than a thousand decorated

1 tackle boxes, which his organization filled with non-perishable breakfast items and delivered
2 to families; he also launched a city-wide food drive to eliminate hunger in his community
3 that collected several tons of food; and

4 WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities,
5 and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon young people
6 like Caroline Beard, Joshua Castille, Kamryn "Kami" Chauncy, Cody Crews, Morgan
7 Gautreau, Elizabeth Kasongo, Andrew Matthews, and Isaac McFarland, who, even when
8 faced with adversity, continuously strive to make their communities, state and the world a
9 better place.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby
11 commends the 2014 recipients of the Louisiana Young Heroes Award, expresses gratitude
12 for the extraordinary service they provide in their communities and the contributions they
13 make to the state of Louisiana, and honors the pride, courage, bravery, and determination
14 they have shown in overcoming personal adversity to achieve their extraordinary
15 accomplishments.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each
17 recipient of the 2014 Louisiana Young Heroes Award.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

DIGEST

Adley

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