

2017 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

BY SENATOR LUNEAU

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Sara Simmonds on her many outstanding accomplishments.

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Sara Simmonds on her many outstanding accomplishments.

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the citizens and the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana recognize the numerous accomplishments of Sara Simmonds; and

WHEREAS, Sara Simmonds of Alexandria, Louisiana is ninety-eight years young and has accomplished so many remarkable and outstanding things throughout her life; and

WHEREAS, Sara is smart, loyal, adventurous, giving, positive, and optimistic and she displays all of her great qualities in all that she does; and

WHEREAS, she initiated the reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Louisiana, and at eighty-eight she traveled to Bhutan to learn about cranes; she was the initial private funder of the efforts to restore Whooping Cranes to Louisiana and remains a major donor; and

WHEREAS, she also helped fund research at Louisiana State University that was necessary for the approval of the reintroduction of the Whopping Cranes by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, she has served as an ambassador for the state of Louisiana and has hosted dozens of out of state scientists from South Korea, Zambia, and Russia, always the consummate host providing guests with an indelible image of Louisiana hospitality and hope for a better world; and

1           WHEREAS, it was brought to Sara's attention several years ago that some soldiers  
2       leaving and arriving at the airport in Alexandria, Louisiana did not always have the means  
3       of getting lunch nor were they treated with the respect and honor they deserved; and

4           WHEREAS, Sara made it her personal mission to change the culture of the airport  
5       by pulling together several of her friends and began a plan of action, that every soldier  
6       leaving or arriving from the Alexandria, Louisiana airport 24/7 were greeted with an apple  
7       pie, soft drink, hugs, and love from Sara and her friends; and

8           WHEREAS, in Sara's humble apartment are flags and heartfelt mementos from  
9       soldiers all over the United States expressing their appreciation for the simple acts of  
10      kindness that were exhibited by Sara and her friends; and

11          WHEREAS, Sara Simmonds was made an honorary general by Fort Polk for her  
12      efforts and acts of kindness and numerous dignitaries throughout the United States, including  
13      the governor of Idaho at the time, Jack Kempthorne, who traveled to Alexandria to thank her  
14      for making sure all soldiers traveling in or out of Alexandria were properly honored; and

15          WHEREAS, she was also responsible for acquiring funds to build ten prison chapels  
16      in our state prisons, she also has paid for buses to take at-risk kids, along with their probation  
17      officer, to Angola to learn from the inmates about the dangers of inappropriate behavior, in  
18      addition she has supported out-of-state field based courses for graduate students who are in  
19      the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Resources so they can learn about  
20      wetlands and wildlife issues in those regions, thereby strengthening their education; and

21          WHEREAS, at eighty-eight, Sara went on a cruise to the North Pole and, upon their  
22      arrival many of the Europeans jumped into the Arctic Ocean for the Arctic Plunge but none  
23      of the younger Americans on the trip would, so Sara said she could not have America shown  
24      up and bailed off the boat into the water, at ninety-five she went on a two week camping trip  
25      (in tents) across Mongolia and last year provided a video of her zip lining across a large lake  
26      at the Wesley Center in central Louisiana, and she is currently planning a skydiving trip in  
27      the next couple of months; and

28          WHEREAS, at ninety-six, Sara asked a friend if she would write her a reference  
29      letter for a spiritual development program that was two years in length, the friend did and  
30      she was accepted and has blown everyone there away, with her character and wit; and

1           WHEREAS, Sara Simmonds is a light and an inspiration to others and her story and  
2 deeds deserve to be recognized by the Senate of the state of Louisiana and to be used as a  
3 guidepost to others finding their purpose and inspiring others; 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 people like Sara  
6 Simmonds who lead by example and make the world a better place for all our future  
7 generations, a true Louisiana hero, and an inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to  
8 know her.

9           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
10 does hereby commend and congratulate Sara Simmonds on her many outstanding  
11 accomplishments and wishes her much success on all of her future endeavors.

12           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
13 Sara Simmonds.

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

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	DIGEST	
SR 35 Original	2017 Regular Session	Luneau
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