

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATOR MILKOVICH

A RESOLUTION

To commend Robert "Robbo" Davidson, retired Chief of Investigations and Chief Deputy for the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office on his active support of law enforcement, despite having retired from his law enforcement career in 2013 after thirty years of dedicated service to DeSoto Parish.

WHEREAS, Robert Davidson, of Mansfield, Louisiana, received his associate degree in criminal justice in 1968 from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, after earning his associate degree, Robert "Robbo" Davidson entered the United States Air Force in 1968 and served honorably for two years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson worked for the Eleventh Judicial District Attorney's Office as a special investigator, concentrating on screening cases for prosecution from 1975 until 1983; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Robert Davidson joined the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office, rising to the rank of lieutenant, chief of investigations, and chief deputy, achievements that are indicative of his commitment to his law enforcement career and to protecting the people of his jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, well respected by his peers, Lt. Davidson was chosen in 2016 to serve on the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, a position of considerable esteem, another sign of his distinguished career in law enforcement and the regard that others, both within the law enforcement community and the public, in general, have for him; and

WHEREAS, shortly after his retirement from the sheriff's office, Lt. Davidson was the recipient of the individual member of the month award of the DeSoto Parish Chamber of Commerce for September 2013; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Davidson continues to serve his community in a manner consistent

with his dedicated service as a law enforcement officer; and

WHEREAS, as a chief investigator, he spent much of his law enforcement career working to identify recovered bodies, locate missing persons, and solve unsolved homicides, specifically what are known in investigative circles as "cold cases"; he labored tirelessly, and often without acknowledgment, to identify deceased persons whose identity had been unknown for decades to locate missing persons who had been lost for decades, and solve homicides that had gone unsolved for decades; and

WHEREAS, as a sincere Christian, Chief Investigator Davidson was motivated by his conviction that every human has worth, every crime victim is entitled to the dignity of identification and recognition, and the family of every crime victim deserves resolution; and

WHEREAS, Antonio Barajas disappeared from DeSoto Parish in 1975, and, in 2006, while working on a different case in Bossier Parish, Chief Investigator Davidson observed that a forensic reconstruction of a skull found in Bossier Parish in 1980 appeared to match the photographs of Antonio Barajas; and

WHEREAS, diligently adhering to the protocols and procedures of his profession, Chief Investigator Davidson had the skull sent to the State Forensic Lab at LSU, obtained DNA from Mr. Barajas' relatives, and ultimately played a role in helping establish, with the assistance of a DNA match between the skull found in Bossier Parish and the DNA samples of Mr. Barajas' relatives, that the skull found in Bossier Parish was that of Mr. Barajas; and

WHEREAS, Chief Investigator Davidson thus provided closure to Mr. Barajas' family and the dignity of identification to Mr. Barajas by keeping the case open for over thirty-one years and diligently and professionally following leads; and

WHEREAS, through similar investigative competence, professional excellence, and dauntless persistence, Chief Investigator Davidson determined in 2006 that a skull found in DeSoto Parish in 1984, but misidentified by another forensic lab as being of another race, was actually that of DeSoto Parish resident, Ricky Maxie, who had been missing for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, the work and accomplishments of Chief Investigator Davidson in pursuing the identity of one victim for over thirty-one years and the identity of another victim for twenty-two years were recognized by author and eminent forensic pathologist,

Mary H. Manheim, in her seminal book, *Bone Remains, Cold Case and Forensic Anthropology*; and

WHEREAS, Chief Investigator Davidson also played an instrumental role, along with the Caddo District Attorney's Office and others, in obtaining confessions from notorious professional assassin, Larry Thompson, for a murder in Toms River, New Jersey, the murder of a woman on Line Avenue in Shreveport, Louisiana, a homicide in Carthage, Texas, and still another in DeSoto Parish; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, he has been driven by a passion for justice, a knowledge that the Truth about violent crimes is essential to bring criminals to reckoning, that provides dignity, meaning, and justice for victims and their families, and the dedication to reveal the truth about long-dead victims and investigate otherwise long-forgotten crimes; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, Chief Investigator Davidson has been motivated by his Christian faith and his unshaken belief that, in God's eyes, every human life is sacred, every victim is significant, every victim's family is hallowed, even if they are never in a position to say, "thank you"; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Investigator Davidson has noted, "you have to keep cold cases and the photographs, out of the filing cabinet, in your line of sight, and on top of your mind, and reread them over and over and over" while acknowledging that "good homicide investigation, takes teamwork"; and

WHEREAS, Robert "Robbo" Davidson, longtime officer with the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office, has dedicated his adult life to protecting and serving his country through his military service and his parish as a law enforcement officer, and his significant contribution to the safety and peace of the citizens of DeSoto Parish are to be heartily commended and celebrated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Robert "Robbo" Davidson, retired Chief of Investigations and Chief Deputy for the DeSoto Parish Sheriff's Office on his active support of law enforcement, despite having retired from his law enforcement career in 2013 after thirty years of dedicated service to DeSoto Parish.

SR NO. 26

ENROLLED

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to retired Lt. Robert "Robbo" Davidson.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE