

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100

BY SENATOR TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To commend AmeriCorps Seniors Southern University (SUSLA) Caddo/Bossier/Desoto Foster Grandparent Volunteer Program for its forty-two years of exceptional service.

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps is a federal agency with a mission to bring people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering, and every year the agency places more than 270,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Senior volunteers with organizations across the country; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Seniors includes a national Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) that engages volunteers who are age fifty-five years and above to serve as role models, mentors, and friends to children; and

WHEREAS, the AmeriCorps Seniors Caddo/Bossier FGP has operated in the Shreveport/Bossier City area since 1980, providing volunteer support to meet critical community needs while also providing high quality volunteer experiences for the participants; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2021, Southern University at Shreveport (SUSLA) became the FGP's sponsor and DeSoto Parish was added to the program's service area; and

WHEREAS, over the past forty-two years, the staff and volunteers of the Caddo/Bossier/Desoto FGP have given the extra love, nurturing, and understanding to fill gaps in available services by bringing children in need together with seniors in a constructive setting that is mutually beneficial; and

WHEREAS, the program's army of volunteers helps children to learn to read, provides one-on-one tutoring, mentors troubled teenagers and young mothers, and assists in the care for premature infants, children with disabilities, and children who have been abused or neglected; and

WHEREAS, outcomes as a direct result of the program include a fifteen percent gain in language skills by participant children over peers not supported by Foster Grandparents and steady growth in the six core domains of gross motor skills, fine motor skills, cognitive skills, language skills, self-help, and social-emotional behavior as measured with the Early Learning Accomplishment Profile assessment; and

WHEREAS, SUSLA's AmeriCorps Seniors Caddo/Bossier/Desoto Foster Grandparent Program continues to provide the personal attention to local children that is essential to help youth grow, gain confidence, and succeed as productive members of society while providing the senior volunteers with the joy and satisfaction of being a needed and vital part of their communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend SUSLA's AmeriCorps Seniors Caddo/Bossier/Desoto Foster Grandparent Program and its staff and volunteers for its forty-two years of exceptional service to area children; does hereby extend best wishes for continued success in the future; and does hereby recognize Thursday, May 5, 2022, as "AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Volunteer Day" at the Senate and extends best wishes for continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Ms. Neva Jones, SUSLA Caddo/Bossier/Desoto FGP Director.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE