

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVES SEABAUGH, BAGLEY, GLOVER, JENKINS, MCCORMICK,
PHELPS, AND PRESSLY

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Honorable David Matlock, chief judge of the Juvenile Court for Caddo Parish, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the Honorable David Matlock was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, and graduated from C.E. Byrd High School as a National Merit Scholar; he completed his undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University in Shreveport and earned a juris doctorate from Baylor University in 1981; he also received the highest score on the Texas State Bar Exam in 1981;

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Matlock's legal experience includes serving as an adjunct instructor of jurisprudence and juvenile justice at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, partner and director at Blanchard, Walker, O'Quin & Roberts, partner at Hargrove, Guyton, Ramey & Barlow, and lawyer at Clark, Thomas, Winters & Shapiro in Austin, Texas; he has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court; he was elected to serve as a judge in the Juvenile Court for Caddo Parish in 1994, and he has served as chief judge of the court since 1999; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Court for Caddo Parish is one of four special juvenile courts in Louisiana with exclusive original juvenile jurisdiction; the court hears cases regarding juvenile delinquency, Family in Need of Services cases concerning ungovernable children, truants, and runaways, and Children in Need of Care cases where a child has been abused, neglected, or abandoned; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Matlock always tried to balance the welfare of children with an acute concern for public safety in his decisions; and

WHEREAS, during Chief Judge Matlock's tenure, the juvenile court had the state's first Juvenile Drug Court, Family Drug Court, Juvenile Mental Health Court, and Truancy Court; he also oversaw the development of the state's first Sex Trafficking Community Response Team and Specialized Victims Intensive Unit; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Matlock has been recognized on numerous occasions for his commitment to Louisiana's youth; his honors include the Volunteers for Youth Justice Hero of the Year Award in 2019, Louisiana CASA Judge of the Year in 2005 and 2019, Volunteers for Youth Justice Shining Star Legal Advocate in 2008, and the Together We Can, Catherine Lafleur Legal Advocacy Award in 2020; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his incredible professional career, Chief Judge Matlock is a member of Broadmoor Baptist Church, where he has served as a Sunday School teacher, deacon, and member of the board of directors; he was also a member of the Caddo Parish School Board from 1990 until 1994, and he has been a Rutherford House Advisory Board member since 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable David Matlock is retiring, effective June 1, 2023, after twenty-four years of dedicated service as chief judge of the Juvenile Court for Caddo Parish; he is most deserving of the highest recognition for his commitment to the welfare of the youth across both Caddo Parish and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Caddo Parish Juvenile Court Chief Judge David Matlock on the occasion of his retirement and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he prosper in his retirement and all of his endeavors.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES