

2025 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVE FREIBERG

A RESOLUTION

To designate Monday, April 28, 2025, as Louisiana Young Heroes Day at the state capitol and to commend the Louisiana Public Broadcasting 2025 Louisiana Young Heroes.

WHEREAS, Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) is honoring six high school students from around the state as Louisiana Young Heroes; these outstanding students have been role models within their local communities and join over two hundred thirty past honorees who have received this award since 1996; and

WHEREAS, LPB defines a "Young Hero" as an exceptional young person who has excelled in academics, given significantly of themselves through public service, overcome personal adversity, exhibited extraordinary heroism, or inspired others through their deeds and strength of character to become better students, persons, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the LPB 2025 Louisiana Young Heroes are Jessica Anderson, Gabrielle "Gabby" Essex, Mateo Guerrero, Jared Lane, William Matthews, and Ja'Nika Stanley; and

WHEREAS, Jessica Anderson is a junior at Southside High School in Youngsville, Louisiana; she was born in Haiti, and after losing her mother at the age of two, she was entrusted to the care of a missionary by her father; she thrived in her new environment and made her first visit to the United States at nine years old; during a later visit, she was required to remain in the country as a result of travel bans; despite the many challenges she has faced, she is dedicated to service and excels academically; and

WHEREAS, Gabrielle "Gabby" Essex is a senior at Natchitoches Central High School in Natchitoches, Louisiana; she was raised by her mother and is an inspiration to her teachers and fellow students alike; she is an active community servant who volunteers in the Emergency Room and Wound Care Departments at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center and serves as a camp liaison in Natchitoches Parish Schools' Future Nurses Program and as a pre-k teacher at St. Anthony Catholic Church; she serves as the Natchitoches Central High

School Tribal Leader and vice president of the school's Health Occupations Student Association; and

WHEREAS, Mateo Guerrero is a senior at Bossier High School in Bossier City, Louisiana, who excels in all areas of his life including academics, religion, and athletics; he is a five-sport varsity athlete who maintains a 4.23 GPA, and he was selected as the 2024-2025 Bossier High School Student of the Year; he is a mentor to his classmates and teammates, a dedicated member of his church, and a leader in his youth group; he participated in an international mission trip to El Salvador, where he mentored children, and he is enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Jared Lane is a junior at West Feliciana High School in St. Francisville, Louisiana, who overcame homelessness that was caused by the 2016 Louisiana floods and a devastating house fire; he is a champion for education equity, serving as a student advocate for Education Trust Louisiana, and he is the youngest-ever junior board member of the Saint Francisville Area Foundation, where he developed the Local Attractive Neighborhood Entrances Plan; he won first place in world geography at State Literary Rally and earned a Certificate of Entrepreneurship through the Young Entrepreneurs Academy of Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, William Matthews is a senior at Belaire Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who is diagnosed with level three autism, ADHD, and ADD; he has a passion for service and volunteers with The Power Coalition, Living World Church, and BREC Conservation; he continually seeks opportunities to make a positive impact, whether he is advocating for his community, assisting with events, or caring for animals; at school, he is captain of the archery, rifle, and soccer teams, and he serves as the head manager for football, volleyball, and girls' and boys' basketball; he also serves as a JROTC executive manager and mentors younger cadets; and

WHEREAS, Ja'Nika Stanley is a senior at Liberty Magnet High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who has been in foster care since the age of ten; despite the uncertainty of her circumstances, she discovered her inner strength and found stability with her "guardian angel" foster parent; she has embraced leadership roles by becoming a company commander in JROTC and serving as vice president of her school's National Honor Society chapter; she has a passion for medicine, which she discovered while caring for her mother,

and is a member of Health Occupation Students of America; she is a true community servant who creates care packages for the elderly, assists at food banks, reads to elementary students, and volunteers at church and events; and

WHEREAS, the 2025 Louisiana Young Heroes are a truly inspiring group whose members are most deserving of the highest recognition for their achievements and contributions to their communities and the state of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, April 28, 2025, as Louisiana Young Heroes Day at the state capitol and does hereby commend the Louisiana Public Broadcasting 2025 Louisiana Young Heroes.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES