

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY SENATORS COLOMB, BARROW, HEWITT, MIZELL AND PETERSON AND REPRESENTATIVES AMEDEE, CARPENTER, DAVIS, EMERSON, HILFERTY, HILL, HODGES, HORTON, JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MARCELLE, MORENO, NORTON, SMITH, STOKES AND WHITE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of High School Women of Excellence and upon being a recipient of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship.

WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur of Abbeville's St. Thomas More Catholic High School exhibited a passion for involvement at a very young age as she was elected an officer in her school's 4-H Club each year in middle school; and

WHEREAS, as soon as Elise began high school, she earned the respect of her peers by being elected freshmen class representative on the student council, and she also joined the Ambassadors Team, Campus Ministry, the Speech & Debate Team, and the Beta Club where she remained a member her entire four years of high school, while also serving on the Louisiana State 4-H Citizenship Board as a camp coordinator and spearheaded a citizenship camp for a group of over seventy-five middle schoolers; and

WHEREAS, Elise discovered in her freshmen year her favorite pastime for the rest of her high school career would be speech and debate, and she competed in extemporaneous speaking during the entirety of her first year of high school at speech and debate tournaments all over Louisiana; Elise was thrilled when she qualified in May of 2013 for the National Catholic Forensic League Tournament; and

WHEREAS, during the rest of her high school years, Elise also qualified for national competition at the National Speech and Debate Association National Tournament, the Glenbrook Tournament, and the Harvard National Forensics Tournament in both extemporaneous speaking and congressional debate; and

WHEREAS, using the skills she learned in speech and debate, Elise found multiple ways to give back to her community, including with the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council in Lafayette, and through monthly meetings with the mayor starting her junior year, Elise

was able to comment on issues of importance to youth in Lafayette Parish to the mayor with other like-minded peers; and

WHEREAS, beginning her senior year, Elise was a member of the Louisiana Legislative Youth Advisory Council which opportunity furthered her interest in solving issues for youth, but this time on a statewide scale; and

WHEREAS, in her local community, Elise found a way to give back through being on the marketing committee for a charity music festival that St. Thomas More's junior class puts on each year called "Hopefest", and made numerous phone calls, knocked on doors, and networked to help raise money for Options, the special needs program at St. Thomas More and Healing House, a safe place for children who are grieving a major loss in their life due to death; through these experiences, Elise's interest in social justice and political awareness continued to grow; and

WHEREAS, despite being a part of these activities and many others, Elise maintained a 3.8 GPA throughout her high school career and, in addition to being selected as a St. Thomas More Top Cat award recipient two times, was also highlighted as a Breakfast of Champions recipient, a State Foreign Languages Festival honoree, a Louisiana High School Speech League Impromptu Speaking runner-up state champion, a Writes of Spring (Poetry) Award recipient, a State Rally Girls Vocal Solo (High Voices) superior rating recipient, St. Thomas More's Louisiana Girls State delegate, and a Tulane Book Award recipient, and, in her senior year, earned a National Beta Club Scholarship and was honored with a place on the Louisiana All State Congressional Debate Team; and

WHEREAS, Elise will be attending the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. in the fall of 2016 where she plans to double-major in Politics and Media Studies with aspirations of working on Capitol Hill in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, for 2016, there are four categories for the Women of Excellence Awards: College Women of Excellence, High School Women of Excellence, Louisiana Hero of Excellence, and Nonprofit of Excellence; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2016 Women of Excellence Awards are being recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of Excellence Awards & Scholarships Ceremony and Reception on Tuesday, May 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur has been named a recipient of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award in the category of High School Women of Excellence and also is a recipient of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship for her accomplishments and personification of excellence in integrity, character, academics, leadership, and community service; and

WHEREAS, Elise Marie LaFleur merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for her dedication to excellence and her outstanding accomplishments, and it is appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation and of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Elise Marie LaFleur upon her receipt of a 2016 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation in the category of High School Women of Excellence and upon her receipt of a Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship; does hereby recognize and record for posterity her singular contributions to the citizens of Louisiana; and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous pride and honor that she brings to her community and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Elise Marie LaFleur.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES