

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 45

BY SENATOR FOIL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Neal Risley Elliott III of Troop 1, Istrouma Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America on attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, a superior rank attained by only two percent of the boys who enter scouting.

WHEREAS, Neal Risley Elliott III, fourteen, is the son of Olivia Woodyear and Neal R. Elliott II, he has a younger brother, Marshal, and is a freshman at Episcopal High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Risley began his membership in Troop 1 of the Boy Scouts, a troop organized through Jefferson United Methodist Church, as a Cub Scout in 2012, became a Webelos Scout in 2015, achieved the rank of Arrow of Light on May 1, 2017, and reached Scout Rank on August 29, 2017; and

WHEREAS, as a Scout, Risley attained Tenderfoot rank on October 29, 2019, and Second Class rank on May 30, 2018, First Class on October 9, 2018, Star rank on February 9, 2019, Life on December 10, 2019, and was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout, having met all of the rigorous requirements for such a designation, on August 8, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Risley Elliott loves fishing and in choosing a project as part of his preparation to become an Eagle Scout, he focused on that love of fishing; and

WHEREAS, each candidate for Eagle Scout must choose and complete a project that is his personal commitment and Risley chose to make twenty artificial fish habitats for Waddill Wildlife Refuge and installed the habitats in the ponds at the refuge; and

WHEREAS, Waddill Wildlife Refuge, part of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, is within the urban environment of Baton Rouge located off North Flannery Road, but it offers a sprawling tree-filled area with trails, two fishing ponds, and ranges for archery and air rifles; and

WHEREAS, the two ponds at Waddill are frequented by fly fishermen and have been stocked with catfish in the past, but the fish habitats will help keep a healthy population of fish for the future; and

WHEREAS, beyond school and scouting, Risley is a lifelong member of St. James Episcopal Church where he currently serves as an acolyte; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishment of becoming an Eagle Scout is one that speaks of a commitment to purpose and an ability to learn and grow in many areas of life in today's world, including earning badges in such wide-ranging areas of concentration as archery, chess, citizenship in community, nation and the world, emergency preparedness, family life, nature, space exploration, and wilderness survival; and

WHEREAS, in completing merit badges in these categories and many others, Risley has worked hard to educate and equip himself for a future in a world that is evolving every day, but also to value the quiet solitude and opportunity for reflection afforded by a quiet afternoon spent fishing, as mankind has for millennia, bringing Risley to a point where he can embrace the beauty and importance of nature that surrounds and speaks to all; and

WHEREAS, Neal Risley Elliott III has made his mark on scouting, attaining its highest rank and has an accomplishment that is widely recognized and respected even beyond the scouting world, as indicative of one who will continue to work diligently to accomplish his goals, he is an Eagle Scout.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Neal Risley Elliott III upon his attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, a superior rank attained by only two percent of those who enter scouting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Risley Elliott.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE