SLS 24RS-1575

ORIGINAL

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX AND REPRESENTATIVE MYERS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends and congratulates Kim Boudreaux on receiving the prestigious Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal and for her leadership of Catholic Charities of Acadiana.

| 1 | A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION |
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| 2 | To commend and congratulate Kim Boudreaux on receiving the prestigious Pro Ecclesia et |
| 3 | Pontifice medal and for her leadership of Catholic Charities of Acadiana. |
| 4 | WHEREAS, Kim Boudreaux, the esteemed chief executive officer of Catholic |
| 5 | Charities of Acadiana, has been honored with the prestigious Papal Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice |
| 6 | medal by His Holiness Pope Francis in recognition of her distinguished service to the |
| 7 | Catholic Church; and |
| 8 | WHEREAS, the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice is one of the highest honors bestowed by |
| 9 | the Pope upon lay women and men, symbolizing a profound commitment to the principles |
| 10 | of Christian charity and teaching; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, the medal was instituted by Pope Leo XIII in July 1888 to |
| 12 | commemorate his golden sacerdotal jubilee, with the award becoming a permanent papal |
| 13 | distinction in October 1898 and, until 1993, it was the highest honor that could be obtained |
| 14 | by women; and |
| 15 | WHEREAS, in December of 2023, Bishop Douglas Deshotel of the Diocese of |
| 16 | Lafayette, presented this distinguished award to Kim Boudreaux, highlighting her exemplary |
| 17 | dedication to Christian charity and service to the community, and emphasizing her pivotal |
| 18 | role in advancing the mission of Catholic Charities of Acadiana; and |

| 1 | WHEREAS, the last time the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice was awarded in the Diocese |
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| 2 | of Lafayette was in the 1940s, underscoring the rarity and significance of the recognition for |
| 3 | this award; and |
| 4 | WHEREAS, Bishop Deshotel nominated Kim for the award; sending the nomination |
| 5 | and letter of approval to the Vatican where it was handled by the Secretary of State of the |
| 6 | Holy See before being submitted to Pope Francis for his signature; and |
| 7 | WHEREAS, as a young adult, Lafayette native Kim Boudreaux felt a very distinct |
| 8 | calling to live a life of service to people that were suffering; and |
| 9 | WHEREAS, Kim sold all her possessions and traveled abroad to work as a |
| 10 | missionary spending much time in her 20s in Mexico, India, Thailand, and Malaysia; and |
| 11 | WHEREAS, in fall 2001, Kim returned home to Lafayette and volunteered at |
| 12 | Catholic Charities of Acadiana's St. Joseph Diner and "just fell in love with the |
| 13 | organization's work"; and |
| 14 | WHEREAS, Kim started with an entry-level job with Catholic Charities of Acadiana |
| 15 | when she felt God calling her to serve and decided to stay with the organization as long as |
| 16 | God would have her; and |
| 17 | WHEREAS, in 2005, Kim began working as the director of Catholic Charities of |
| 18 | Acadiana and passionately describes her work as "having the opportunity to show kindness |
| 19 | to people in the moments they need it the most"; and |
| 20 | WHEREAS, Kim Boudreaux's leadership at Catholic Charities of Acadiana has been |
| 21 | instrumental in organizing charitable efforts, focusing on upholding the sanctity of human |
| 22 | life and assisting the most vulnerable members of society; and |
| 23 | WHEREAS, Catholic Charities of Acadiana, under Kim Boudreaux's guidance, has |
| 24 | tirelessly carried out the corporal works of mercy, embodying the Gospel's call to |
| 25 | compassion and service to those in need; and |
| 26 | WHEREAS, Kim Boudreaux's extensive experience in foreign missions, including |
| 27 | her work with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, has enriched her leadership at |
| 28 | Catholic Charities of Acadiana and inspired a profound commitment to serving the people |
| 29 | of Acadiana; and |
| 30 | WHEREAS, the work of Catholic Charities of Acadiana includes providing essential |

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services to people experiencing homelessness, poverty, or hunger, and its programs include
 free meals through St. Joseph Diner, emergency shelter, food distribution, free showers and
 other hygiene services, and financial resources for people in crises; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Douglas Deshotel's nomination of Kim Boudreaux for the Pro
Ecclesia et Pontifice award and Pope Francis' granting of the nomination reflects her
outstanding contributions to the community, her steadfast commitment to Christian
principles, and her exceptional organizational skills in fulfilling the mission of Catholic
Charities of Acadiana.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 10 extend heartfelt congratulations to Kim Boudreaux on her receipt of the Pro Ecclesia et 11 Pontifice medal and commends her for exemplary leadership and dedication to serving the 12 Catholic Church and community through her role as chief executive officer of Catholic 13 Charities of Acadiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the invaluable contributions of Catholic Charities of Acadiana under Kim Boudreaux's guidance, providing essential services and demonstrating unwavering compassion for those in need, is also hereby recognized and recorded for posterity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Kim Boudreaux as gratitude to her and the entire staff of Catholic Charities of Acadiana for their selfless work in upholding the principles of Christian charity and making a profound difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout Acadiana.

> The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

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Boudreaux

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