

Regular Session, 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATOR ALARIO

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Gary Ostroske for twenty-five years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Gary Ostroske, retiring chief executive officer of the United Way of Southeast
3 Louisiana, for twenty-five years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership,
4 particularly with the highly effective recovery and rebuilding activities in Southeast
5 Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Deepwater Horizon oil
6 spill, and Hurricane Isaac.

7 WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana has been
8 led and inspired by Gary Ostroske, its executive officer, an extraordinary leader who has
9 directed and guided remarkable and life-saving activities and who is a legend among United
10 Way executives; and

11 WHEREAS, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana serves the southeastern region
12 of the state comprised of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St.
13 Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington; and

14 WHEREAS, Gary Ostroske lost everything during Hurricane Katrina but never
15 allowed himself to be distracted; to the contrary, he focused on how he and the United Way
16 could assist those impacted by the event, and under his leadership and the effective work of
17 the United Way of Southeast Louisiana an unprecedented number of citizens of Southeast
18 Louisiana were able to return home to safe and affordable housing, and a safety net of health

1 and human services programs was established for citizens struggling from the effects of the
2 hurricane; and

3 WHEREAS, similar efforts and results were evident in the productive recovery and
4 rebuilding efforts after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and Hurricane Isaac; and

5 WHEREAS, with Gary Ostroske's leadership and guidance, the United Way of
6 Southeast Louisiana funds programs, supports collaborations, convenes experts, and fosters
7 new and needed community services based upon best practices, and works to ensure quality
8 health and human services for the citizens of the seven parish area and assesses the success
9 of programs based upon the achievement of predefined outcomes; and these efforts have
10 proven to be very successful in carrying out its mission; and

11 WHEREAS, services provided include educational programs serving thousands of
12 youth, a comprehensive array of substance abuse and prevention services serving adults and
13 youth, emergency and ongoing assistance with food needs for over a half million individuals
14 and families, and programs designed to build stronger neighborhoods and communities; and

15 WHEREAS, United Way of Southeast Louisiana programs in 2010 addressed
16 priorities such as housing, medical and mental health care, child and adult care, and
17 academic supports; served over four hundred eighty thousand unduplicated clients; and since
18 Hurricane Katrina the United Way of Southeast Louisiana has made grants of over sixty-six
19 million dollars to area health and human service agencies, and invested around eighteen
20 million dollars per year in the region; and

21 WHEREAS, Gary Ostroske will begin a much deserved retirement in September and
22 it is appropriate that the Legislature of Louisiana recognize his achievements, efforts, and
23 dedication, and service regarding his community and state.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 does hereby recognize and commend Mr. Gary Ostroske, retiring chief executive officer of
26 United Way of Southeast Louisiana, for his extraordinary leadership and dedicated service
27 to the seven parish area and the state.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Gary
29 Ostroske.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

Alario

SR No. 152

Commends Gary Ostroske, retiring chief executive officer of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, for 25 years of leadership and service, particularly with the highly effective recovery and rebuilding activities in Southeast La. during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and Hurricane Isaac.