## SLS 15RS-1978

## ORIGINAL

2015 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR JOHNS

COMMENDATIONS. Commends William Sommers as the recipient of the prestigious Don E. Wydra Memorial Award for his extraordinary contributions to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.

1	A RESOLUTION
2	To commend and congratulate William Sommers, Director of the Calcasieu Parish Office
3	of Juvenile Justice Services, on being the recipient of the Don E. Wydra Memorial
4	Award for making an extraordinary contribution to juvenile justice and delinquency
5	prevention.
6	WHEREAS, on May 6, 2015, at the 35th Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice
7	held in New Orleans, William Sommers, Director of the Calcasieu Parish Office of Juvenile
8	Justice Services (OJJS), received the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award plaque; and
9	WHEREAS, the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award focuses on the commitment of the
10	recipient towards bettering juvenile justice as a whole and being an advocate for juveniles
11	who often have none; and
12	WHEREAS, the award was created by members of the Governor's Juvenile Justice
13	and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board in memory of Don E. Wydra who served as
14	Chief of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections' Juvenile Services Section under
15	three governors, Edwin Edwards, Dave Treen and Buddy Roemer; and
16	WHEREAS, William Sommers' work with OJJS reflects his significant impact on
17	juvenile justice as a role model, with unselfish support of workers and volunteers, and an
18	exceptional work ethic in many years of service; and

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1	WHEREAS, he has been cited as an outstanding champion for juvenile justice not
2	only in Calcasieu Parish but on a state and federal level who has made a tremendous impact
3	on the families of Calcasieu Parish; and
4	WHEREAS, William Sommers is the local coordinator of the Annie E. Casey
5	Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and chairman of the
6	Calcasieu Parish Children and Youth Planning Board; he is a certified Juvenile Court
7	Administrator through the National Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association and a
8	member of the National Association of Probation Executives; and
9	WHEREAS, the award honors years of tireless service which began as a Juvenile
10	Probation Officer for OJJS in 1987 and continued as a Director of Probation and then
11	Assistant Director until being promoted to the Director of OJJS in March 2014; and
12	WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities,
13	and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon dedicated people
14	like William Sommers; and
15	WHEREAS, he has earned the sincere gratitude and respect of the members of the
16	Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana.
17	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
18	hereby commends and congratulates William Sommers, Director of Juvenile Justice Services
19	in Calcasieu Parish, on being the recipient of the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award for making
20	an extraordinary contribution to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.
21	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
22	William Sommers.

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

	DIGEST	
SR 122 Original	2015 Regular Session	Johns

Commends William Sommers, Director of Juvenile Justice Services in Calcasieu Parish, on being the recipient of the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award for making an extraordinary contribution to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention.