

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

BY SENATOR JOHNS

A RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2015, at the 35th Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice held in New Orleans, William Sommers, Director of the Calcasieu Parish Office of Juvenile Justice Services (OJJS), received the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award plaque; and

WHEREAS, the Don E. Wydra Memorial Award focuses on the commitment of the recipient towards bettering juvenile justice as a whole and being an advocate for juveniles who often have none; and

WHEREAS, the award was created by members of the Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board in memory of Don E. Wydra who served as Chief of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections' Juvenile Services Section under three governors, Edwin Edwards, Dave Treen and Buddy Roemer; and

WHEREAS, William Sommers' work with OJJS reflects his significant impact on juvenile justice as a role model, with unselfish support of workers and volunteers, and an exceptional work ethic in many years of service; and

WHEREAS, he has been cited as an outstanding champion for juvenile justice not only in Calcasieu Parish but on a state and federal level who has made a tremendous impact on the families of Calcasieu Parish; and

WHEREAS, William Sommers is the local coordinator of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and chairman of the Calcasieu Parish Children and Youth Planning Board; he is a certified Juvenile Court Administrator through the National Juvenile and Family Court Judges Association and a member of the National Association of Probation Executives; and

WHEREAS, the award honors years of tireless service which began as a Juvenile Probation Officer for OJJS in 1987 and continued as a Director of Probation and then Assistant Director until being promoted to the Director of OJJS in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon dedicated people like William Sommers; and

WHEREAS, he has earned the sincere gratitude and respect of the members of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby commends and congratulates 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to William Sommers.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE