

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 147

BY SENATOR MURRAY

A RESOLUTION

To commend New Orleans firefighter Roddrick C. Harrison for his heroic actions in saving lives and combating a major fire in an inhabited dwelling in the French Quarter.

WHEREAS, Roddrick C. Harrison joined the New Orleans Fire Department on August 23, 2009, taking the oath to protect and serve the people of his community and to always put their lives before his own personal safety and protect them and their property; and

WHEREAS, firefighter Harrison was off duty in the early morning hours of Saturday, March 2, 2015, when he noticed flames coming from the roof of a house located at Frenchman and Burgundy Streets in the French Quarter; and

WHEREAS, he immediately reported the fire and gave a description of the location to assist responding firefighting companies as they raced to reach the burning building and battle the growing blaze; and

WHEREAS, firefighter Harrison reached the front of the burning structure and was met by an adult female resident of the house who desperately told him that her daughter was trapped in an upstairs bedroom; and

WHEREAS, the off duty firefighter, without hesitation, entered the home on his hands and knees to avoid the thick black smoke and rescued an adult male and female who were still upstairs in the bed asleep; and

WHEREAS, firefighter Harrison was forced to drag the two inhabitants out of bed and down the stairs due to their disorientation from the billowing smoke and confusion from the middle-of-the-night blaze; and

WHEREAS, he got the male and female to safety but had to reenter the burning building to rescue another male who ran back into the fire to get clothing for the female victim; and

WHEREAS, he was successful in forcing the second male to evacuate the fiery house as the crew of Engine 27 of the New Orleans Fire Department arrived to battle the blaze and he then began assisting his fellow first responders in the dangerous job before them by hooking hoses to water hydrants and starting to extinguish the fire; and

WHEREAS, firefighter Harrison, even though he was off duty, never hesitated and was very decisive as he performed his duties with uncommon valor and saved multiple lives from a fiery death.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its highest commendations to New Orleans firefighter Roddrick C. Harrison for his incredible bravery in saving lives from the early morning fire and preventing a tragedy from resulting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana applauds firefighter Roddrick C. Harrison for his actions taken to rescue victims of the fire and recognizes that he embodies everything that a firefighter should be when lives and property are at risk.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Roddrick C. Harrison.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE