

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 94

BY SENATORS BOUDREAUX AND PEACOCK

A RESOLUTION

To commend Acadian Companies for fifty years of service to the citizens of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, founded in 1971, Acadian Companies is a multi-faceted and employee-owned company with six divisions, a global reach, and a mission of improving the lives of their patients, customers, and employees through its innovative spirit and dedicated team of professionals; and

WHEREAS, Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. is the largest employee-owned ambulance service in the nation and has earned a reputation as one of the nation's most respected and accomplished medical transportation companies; and

WHEREAS, when funeral homes ceased services, Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. began operations at 12:01 a.m. on September 1, 1971, with three young cofounders, two ambulances, and eight medics to cover two hundred seventy-nine square miles of households in Lafayette Parish; and

WHEREAS, Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. has been in continuous operation since September 1, 1971, for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty-five days a year for fifty years, through hurricanes, floods, ice storms, and, now a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, over the past five decades, Acadian Companies' service area has grown to include thirty-five parishes in Louisiana, thirty-five counties in Texas, one county in Mississippi, and one county in Tennessee; Acadian Companies has a fleet of six hundred twenty-eight ambulances, twelve helicopters, and five fixed-wing aircraft that are staffed by twenty-seven hundred medics who transport more than six hundred thirty-five thousand patients annually; and

WHEREAS, Acadian Companies delivers compassionate and highly-skilled medical care to more than twenty-four million residents and has a service area that includes almost sixty-two thousand square miles; and

WHEREAS, Acadian Companies is one of the very few companies in the nation that is accredited by both the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) and the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems (CAMTS), signifying the gold standard in pre-hospital care; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Acadian Companies expanded to include Acadian Air Med and the addition of Air Med's fixed-wing fleet led to the creation of the Executive Aircraft Charter Service in 1991; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Acadian Companies began providing medics to work on oil installations in the Gulf of Mexico and Safety Management Systems, L.L.C. is now one of the largest providers of health, safety, environmental, inspection, medical emergency, and disaster response services in this country; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, Acadian Companies started offering personal medical alert systems, which expanded into a broader range of security monitoring under Acadian Monitoring Services L.L.C., and then into security equipment and installations as Acadian Total Security, L.L.C.; and

WHEREAS, Acadian Companies instituted an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP); the late United States senator from Louisiana, Honorable Russell B. Long, one of the authors of the ESOP legislation, touted Acadian Companies as a model ESOP, the kind of company he hoped for when he helped to initiate ESOPs; currently, employees of Acadian Companies own eighty percent of the company's stock; and

WHEREAS, Acadian Companies launched the National EMS Academy in 2003, a fully accredited partnership with South Louisiana Community College and Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service to educate emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics for agencies throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of its desire to pay it forward in the communities it serves, Acadian Companies has partnered with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and other local inclusion and diversity groups to provide a scholarship program for young men and women interested in a career in emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, due to the remarkable dedication of its employee-owners, Acadian

Companies has garnered international acclaim and recognition from the American Ambulance Association, the United States Senate, William Henry Gates III (Bill Gates), author and co-founder of the Microsoft Corporation, *Inc. Magazine*, many emergency medical service industry organizations, and even the Smithsonian Institution; and

WHEREAS, Acadian Companies is proud of its Louisiana roots; it employs over fifteen hundred medics and has almost three thousand total employees in the state; and

WHEREAS, the culture associated with this great state, and the relationships established, together with the dedicated service of its employees, and with community, health care, and governmental leaders is the foundation upon which Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc. was built, and will enable Acadian Companies to continue serving the citizens of Louisiana for another fifty years and beyond.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Acadian Companies for fifty years of service to the citizens of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Acadian Companies.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE