

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 226

BY REPRESENTATIVE BACALA

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Probation and Parole Officers Association for fifty years of distinguished service.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Probation and Parole Officers Association's (LPPOA) purpose is to promote professional development, education, and recognition in the field of community corrections; the association is committed to increasing officers' quality of life by advocating for a positive work environment, appropriate compensation, and benefits befitting the jobs they are tasked to perform; and

WHEREAS, LPPOA advocates on behalf of members to the Legislature of Louisiana, officer of the governor, the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, and other public and community stakeholders to influence policy and planning; LPPOA promotes and improves public safety through law enforcement and reentry efforts; and

WHEREAS, according to Louisiana law, probation and parole officers are commissioned law enforcement officers with powers of arrest and statewide jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers supervise approximately 45,000 individuals convicted of felony crimes who are either placed on probation or released from incarceration via parole on community supervision; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers provide presentence investigations to the district courts, preparole and clemency investigations to the Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole; these investigations are utilized by the courts to make informed decisions with regard to sentencing individuals convicted of felony crimes; the Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole utilize investigations to make informed decisions concerning the possible early release of individuals; clemency investigations are utilized by the governor to make informed decisions about whether or not to grant clemency; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers are tasked with assisting formerly incarcerated individuals who are reentering society; they have organized and actively participated in local reentry coalitions and they strive to remove barriers to successful reentry; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers assist other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the investigation and apprehension of individuals engaged in criminal activity; they participate in local, state, and federal task forces; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers are a key component of specialty courts throughout the state; officers supervise individuals participating in DWI courts, drug courts, reentry courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers have assisted with staffing office of juvenile justice facilities to prevent escapes and protect public safety; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers were called upon during the COVID-19 pandemic to conduct hospital sits on inmates who were COVID positive; officers staffed the COVID-19 quarantine unit at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola; officers continue to provide hospital sit duties to insure the safety, security, and smooth operation of adult correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, probation and parole officers are increasingly called upon during times of natural disaster such as floods and hurricanes to provide assistance with rescue and law enforcement duties; they were present before, during, and after hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike and historic flooding in the Baton Rouge and Denham Springs areas.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana Probation and Parole Officers Association for fifty years of distinguished service and does hereby extend enduring gratitude for its support of Louisiana's probation and parole officers and their part in securing the public safety of all Louisianans.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES