

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 113

BY SENATOR HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend the New Orleans Louisiana Brazilian Jiu Jitsu (NOLA BJJ) Kids Competition Camp for its commitment to excellence in martial arts competitions and to welcome NOLA BJJ to the state capitol on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

WHEREAS, the NOLA BJJ network of academies had humble beginnings during the early 1990s as a small group of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu enthusiasts gathered in a garage to exchange grappling knowledge; and

WHEREAS, NOLA BJJ is now the oldest and largest Brazilian Jiu Jitsu school in New Orleans with over fifty Black Belts at six locations throughout the metro area (Uptown Temple Gym, Midcity MMA, New State, Third Gate, West Bank Social Club, and NOLA BJJ Treme) each with a distinctive culture and style, is home to hundreds of students, and hosts innumerable visitors from around the world; and

WHEREAS, following irreparable damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, Professor Matthias Meister, an international Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Federation World Champion and Fifth Degree Black Belt, established the NOLA BJJ headquarters on Magazine Street where it has weathered many subsequent storms and a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, NOLA BJJ continues to evolve and flourish offering classes five days a week for boys and girls ages three through fifteen years old; and

WHEREAS, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu training provides physical, mental, and emotional benefits for kids while developing their strength, flexibility, posture, self-control, self-esteem, and social skills; and

WHEREAS, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu also teaches kids health habits, goal setting, conflict resolution, and the ability to overcome fear and how to address bullying; kids who participate develop a bond with one another and benefit from the influence of the positive role models who support the program; and

WHEREAS, NOLA BJJ initiated its Kids Competition Camp a year ago providing its most highly motivated youth a weekly, two-hour high intensity sport-oriented training designed to prepare the youth to be successful in competitions; and

WHEREAS, as kids develop essential Jiu Jitsu fundamentals and technique throughout the week, NOLA BJJ Kids Competition Camp emphasizes endurance, animal movements, cardiovascular stamina, and breath control, as well as the competition point systems, match strategy and sequences, rules, submissions, and defense while the camp integrates yoga and breath control technique training; and

WHEREAS, kids who compete develop positive, pro-social relationships with kids from around the region and have the opportunity to improve their Brazilian Jiu Jitsu by cross-training with kids from outstanding programs such as JM Modern Jiu Jitsu, Science of Jiu Jitsu Academy, and Hunter MMA; and

WHEREAS, the NOLA BJJ Kids Competition Camp started with six kids and has ballooned to over twenty resulting in many of NOLA BJJ's adults rotate in and providing specialized training and role modeling for the youth; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2024, NOLA BJJ sponsored thirteen youth to compete in the North American Grappling Association Championship and every kid made the podium bringing home eleven Gold Medals, six Silver Medals, and three Bronze Medals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the New Orleans Louisiana Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Kids Competition Camp for its commitment to excellence in martial arts competitions and welcomes NOLA BJJ to the Louisiana State Capitol on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana commends and congratulates NOLA BJJ's coaches and the participants in Kids Competition Camp and their parents, and hereby recognizes and records for posterity their outstanding achievements and continuing dedication to the gentle art of Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and the personal growth that it facilitates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Will Harrell, NOLA BJJ's Kids Competition Camp Coordinator and Coach.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE