

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

To designate May 15, 2013, as "Warrick Dunn Charities Day at the Capitol".

WHEREAS, through its Homes for the Holidays program, now in its sixteenth year, Warrick Dunn Charities has helped 123 single parents and 334 children continue to achieve long-term stability as homeowners with the majority of its recipients coming from all across Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Homes for the Holidays rewards self-sufficient single parents who are actively trying to improve their lives through financial independence; and

WHEREAS, by providing down payment assistance when these parents are ready to buy their first house, and then furnishing those houses with everything a first-time homeowner needs, parents are given the unique opportunity to establish a positive home environment where their children can thrive educationally, socially and economically; and

WHEREAS, Betty's Hope is the second program of Warrick Dunn Charities launched in July 2012; and

WHEREAS, the "bereavement program on wheels" is a free community service to the city of Baton Rouge with hopes of expansion; and

WHEREAS, the Mobile Hope unit is a unique, innovative rolling grief support resource that will bring the Betty's Hope mission and vision for grief support into neighborhoods and schools; and

WHEREAS, the program is available to schools and community centers to access on a scheduled basis, and according to the specific needs of Louisiana children; and

WHEREAS, Warrick Dunn grew up the oldest of six children in a single-parent household; and

WHEREAS, his mother, Betty Smothers, was a Baton Rouge police officer who worked tirelessly to provide for her family so that one day she could realize the dream of home ownership; and

WHEREAS, tragically, Betty was killed during an armed robbery when Warrick was only a senior in high school; and

WHEREAS, moved by the outpouring of support following his mother's death, Warrick promised to one day give back to the community that had given so much to him and his siblings during their time of need; and

WHEREAS, despite his dire circumstances, Warrick went on to graduate from Florida State University, where he also laid the foundation for a successful football career; and

WHEREAS, after being drafted in the first round by the NFL in 1997, Warrick began delivering on his promise and has not stopped since.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 15, 2013, as "Warrick Dunn Charities Day at the Capitol".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Warrick Dunn Charities.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE