

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY REPRESENTATIVES ST. GERMAIN, BARROW, CHAMPAGNE, HILL, HODGES, KATRINA JACKSON, NANCY LANDRY, MORENO, NORTON, SMITH, STOKES, THIERRY, AND WHITNEY AND SENATORS BROOME, BUFFINGTON, DORSEY-COLOMB, GUILLORY, AND PETERSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 upon receipt of a 2013 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation for achievements in the field of Military.

WHEREAS, the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 was chartered in March of 2005, and the organization has grown from fifteen original members to over one hundred active members, and Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 has helped to start several other chapters throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana is a service and support organization whose mission is to answer the call of military families in need and bring to the forefront the sacrifices of military personnel and their families, and the group hosts events that promote patriotism and honor our military and veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 established a care package project to demonstrate to men and women serving overseas that they are appreciated and recognized for their sacrifice, and the care package project has grown from sending boxes twice a year to sending an overwhelming three hundred plus boxes a year, with each box including a few comfort items, some basic necessities, and as much love as can be packed into a box; and

WHEREAS, one of the most important responsibilities of the organization is to support families that have lost a loved one while serving in the military, and Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana accepts this solemn responsibility because their families are joined by a special bond of having a loved one who volunteered to protect the rights and freedoms that Americans hold dear; and

WHEREAS, when a Blue Star Mother loses a child who is serving in the military, the mother then becomes a Gold Star Mother, and the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana hosts an annual Gold Star Mothers Day Luncheon to honor the parents of fallen heroes; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana undertook a tremendous effort to honor Louisiana Gold Star Families, and the group raised over forty thousand dollars to present Louisiana Gold Star Families with an Honor and Remember Flag; the group also attends funeral services for active duty military and presents mothers with a Gold Star Flag, a memory book, and a promise to not forget her sacrifice, and since the chapter was established, Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 has presented over one hundred thirty Gold Star Flags; and

WHEREAS, Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana also hosts the Wreaths Across America Ceremony in Baton Rouge in mid-December at the National Cemetery, continuing the event that was started in Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 and now takes place at over six hundred national cemeteries nationwide; the Wreaths Across America project has become a major event of the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, and this year nearly four hundred wreaths have been placed on the graves of veterans and fallen heroes to carry out the mission of the Wreaths Across America event which is to honor, remember, and teach; the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana honors those who are currently serving in the military, remembers the fallen, and teaches children the value of freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation created the Women of Excellence Awards to recognize and honor extraordinary women of excellence across the state for their outstanding achievements and contributions; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Women of Excellence Awards exhibit characteristics of integrity and professionalism, personify excellence in their area of specialty, and are committed to community service to better society as a whole; and

WHEREAS, for 2013, there are six fields or categories for the Women of Excellence Awards: Business, College Woman of Excellence, Education and Research, High School Woman of Excellence, Louisiana Hero of Excellence, and Military; and

WHEREAS, the recipients of the 2013 Women of Excellence Awards are being recognized at the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation's Women of

Excellence Awards Gala on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, at the historic Hilton Capitol House Hotel in Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 has been named a recipient of a 2013 Women of Excellence Award in the field of Military to recognize excellence and significant contributions related to the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation for dedication to service and outstanding accomplishments, and it is entirely appropriate for the Legislature of Louisiana to commend the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 upon receipt of a 2013 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation which recognizes the group's vital contributions to the citizens of Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 upon receipt of a 2013 Women of Excellence Award from the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation for achievements in the field of Military; does hereby recognize and record for posterity the singular contributions of the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 to the citizens of Louisiana, and does hereby extend enduring appreciation for the tremendous honor and pride that the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1 brings to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Blue Star Mothers of Louisiana, Chapter 1.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE