

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 124

BY SENATORS MILLS, CORTEZ, GUILLORY AND PERRY

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana Alliance of the Boys & Girls Clubs and the 2013 Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year, Andrew Vessell.

WHEREAS, in both rural and urban areas, youth of this nation are struggling to create a bright future in the face of crime, substance abuse, low fitness levels, and high dropout rates; and

WHEREAS, often young people need professional youth services to realize their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Clubs provide programming for youth designed to develop character and leadership skills, health and life skills, education and career development, as well as exposure to the arts and sports and recreation; and

WHEREAS, to fulfill its mission, the Boys & Girls Clubs in Louisiana employ over 420 people and maintain an additional 1,600 volunteers who work to provide a supportive relationship and help mentoring the youth at the thirty-two different Boys & Girls Clubs sites; and

WHEREAS, the Boys & Girls Clubs encourage young people by providing a positive and safe environment and promoting and recognizing teens that have developed sound character, leadership abilities, and a willingness to give back to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the highest honor for a Boys & Girls Club member is the Boys and Girls Clubs' Youth of the Year award that recognizes teens for outstanding contributions to a member's family, school, community, and Boys & Girls Clubs; and

WHEREAS, the program also acknowledges the personal challenges faced by a candidate and the obstacles an individual has overcome in his life; and

WHEREAS, winners of the Youth of the Year award are selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, community service, leadership ability, and the consideration of any physical, social, or emotional obstacles that have been overcome; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Louisiana Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year has been awarded to Andrew Vessell, selected from the over 27,000 young people being served in the Boys & Girls Clubs sites across the state; and

WHEREAS, the winner of this prestigious contest is also awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship, with state winners having the opportunity to be selected as a Regional Youth of the Year and a National Youth of the Year, each award providing additional scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Vessell is a senior at Belaire High School and a six-year member of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Andrew intends to begin college in the fall at Northwestern State University, majoring in theater; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the extraordinary accomplishments of Andrew as well as the staff and volunteers of the Louisiana Alliance of the Boys & Girls Clubs be appropriately recognized.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the Boys & Girls Clubs of Louisiana for a demonstrated commitment to improving the lives of others in this state and the Louisiana Boys & Girls Club 2013 Youth of the Year, Andrew Vessell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Louisiana and the 2013 Youth of the Year, Andrew Vessell.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE