

Regular Session, 2011

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 208

BY REPRESENTATIVES SAM JONES, HARRISON, AND ST. GERMAIN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the citizens and local governments of St. Mary Parish for actions taken during the flooding of 2011 to minimize the impact of backwater flooding in St. Mary Parish and six other parishes including the filling and installing of more than one million sandbags and other protection measures, the installation of sheet-piling, and submerging a barge in Bayou Chene.

WHEREAS, this spring's heavy rains in the mid and lower Mississippi River valley and snowmelt farther upstream lead to extraordinary flooding on the nation's largest river; and

WHEREAS, the rising of the water level on the Mississippi River and the subsequent stress placed upon the levee systems required that the United States Army Corps of Engineers open the floodgates on the Morganza Spillway to alleviate levee overtopping; and

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2011, the St. Mary Levee District, St. Mary Parish Government, Morgan City, and the town of Berwick requested an emergency permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers for a project to close Bayou Chene, which was granted within twenty-four hours; and

WHEREAS, the project entailed the installation of sheet-piling, submerging a barge behind the sheet-piling to provide fortification and placing rock along the waterway's banks; and

WHEREAS, the flood waters would contact the sheet-piling, lowering its access and velocity, and empty into the area marches where the waters would drop sediment and nutrients; and

WHEREAS, the project was successful and massive flooding in St. Mary, St. Martin, Terrebonne, Assumption, Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Pointe Coupee parishes was averted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate the St. Mary Parish Levee District and its President Bill Hidalgo, the St. Mary Parish Government and its President Paul Naquin, and the city governments of Morgan City and its Mayor Tim Matte, the town of Berwick and its Mayor Louis Ratcliff, the city of Patterson and its Mayor Rodney Grogan, the city of Franklin and its Mayor Raymond Harris, the town of Baldwin and its Mayor Wayne Breaux, the Chitimacha Tribe and its Chief John Paul Darden, New Industries and its employee Andrew Mancuso, McDermott Incorporated, and the St. Mary Civil Air Patrol for actions taken during the flooding of 2011 to minimize the impact of flood waters in St. Mary Parish and six other parishes from backwater flooding of up to five feet of water including the filling and installing of more than one million sandbags and other protection measures, the installation of sheet-piling, and submerging a barge in Bayou Chene. Special thanks are also extended to the very fine Louisiana National Guard for their assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the St. Mary Parish Levee District, the St. Mary Parish government, Morgan City, the town of Berwick, the city of Patterson, the city of Franklin, the town of Baldwin, the Chitimacha Tribe, New Industries, McDermott Incorporated, the St. Mary Civil Air Patrol, and the Louisiana Army National Guard.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

---

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE