

2019 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 218

BY REPRESENTATIVE CREWS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Autry Lowry for his accomplishments.

WHEREAS, Autry Lowry has been a firefighter for seventeen years; a firefighter at Benton Fire District #4, Autry is also president of Local 4015; and

WHEREAS, due to an injury and resulting extensive neck surgery, and subsequent studies, four more surgeries, and horrific pain, Autry experienced traumatic stress; he withdrew at work and at home, inadvertently alienating colleagues and family members; and

WHEREAS, during a leave of absence after his final surgery, Autry's younger daughter took up archery; he and Maddie often visited the local archery shop in the evenings to practice shooting; and

WHEREAS, Autry found purpose in this new activity which he and his daughter shared and bonded over; he began volunteering with Maddie's archery team at Benton Elementary School; he particularly wanted to help out one of Maddie's classmates who participated in archery but needed a little extra guidance because of her cerebral palsy; and

WHEREAS, when Autry started helping young Rylie Duos, she was sitting down to shoot; Autry went to the drawing board and designed a bow stand for her; it was a work in progress for a while, as he observed how she used it, what worked for her with it, and he would take it home to tweak it after practices; he did this until the bow stand was just right for Rylie; and

WHEREAS, helping Maddie and Rylie and their teammates at Benton Elementary helped get Autry out of the depression he had been in; the mentee became the mentor as Autry saw clearly that if Rylie did not let obstacles stop her from living life to the fullest, nor should he; and

WHEREAS, Autry resolved to seek professional help through the International Association of Firefighters Center of Excellence, a rehabilitation and treatment center for firefighters in Maryland; there he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression; resistant to such a diagnosis at first, Autry eventually accepted his condition; and

WHEREAS, Autry had previously associated PTSD with service members, but now understands it can affect many people, including first responders such as himself; he is now a huge advocate for mental and behavioral health services and for people seeking out help when they need it; and

WHEREAS, he is passionate and vocal about PTSD, but as he continues his healing process, he still finds helping the archery team rewarding and fulfilling.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Autry Lowry for his accomplishments; does hereby recognize and record for posterity his ability to overcome obstacles; and does hereby wish him every measure of happiness and success in his future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Autry Lowry.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES