

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

BY REPRESENTATIVE BURRELL

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Dock Voorhies upon his retirement as Chief of Social Work and Chaplain Services at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Dock Voorhies upon his retirement after thirty-three years of dedicated service
3 to the veterans of Louisiana.

4 WHEREAS, on May 3, 2013, Dock Voorhies will retire as Chief of Social Work/
5 Chaplain Services at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center in Shreveport, Louisiana; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Voorhies has been a social worker for thirty-five years and thirty-
7 three of those years have been with the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Voorhies worked as a social worker in mental health with the state
9 of Louisiana from 1978 until 1980, after which he began his career with the Department of
10 Veterans Affairs; and

11 WHEREAS, as Chief of Social Work, Mr. Voorhies advocated for the expansion of
12 the noninstitutional care program for veterans, which helps veterans to remain in their home
13 rather than being institutionalized; and

14 WHEREAS, in 2010, Mr. Voorhies strongly and tirelessly supported efforts to
15 establish the VA Comfort Care Unit for terminally ill veterans; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Voorhies was also instrumental in organizing the first Operation
17 Stand in 1995, which is a systemwide approach to providing services to the homeless,
18 including their financial, personal, and hygiene care needs; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Voorhies was initially appointed to the Louisiana Interagency
20 Action Council for the Homeless by Governor Mike Foster and was reappointed by
21 Governor Kathleen Blanco; and

1 WHEREAS, through his advocacy with the local Homeless Coalition, Mr. Voorhies
2 was successful in securing two million dollars in funding from the United States Department
3 of Housing and Urban Development to tackle the needs of the homeless in the Shreveport
4 and Bossier City area; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Voorhies also served a term as president of the Homeless Coalition,
6 is a member of the police civil service board of the city of Shreveport, and serves on the
7 board of Biz Camp, an organization that teaches business and professional skills to local at-
8 risk youth; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Voorhies brings a deep sense of pride and honor to his family,
10 colleagues at the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center, and all of the friends he has made
11 throughout the course of his highly productive career; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Voorhies merits a sincere and heartfelt measure of commendation
13 for his many outstanding accomplishments as he prepares to begin the next exciting chapter
14 of his life; and

15 WHEREAS, the Louisiana House of Representatives sincerely wishes to
16 acknowledge Mr. Voorhies for the many contributions he has made to his community, to the
17 veterans of the Shreveport and Bossier City area, and to the state of Louisiana.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
19 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Dock Voorhies upon his retirement as Chief
20 of Social Work/Chaplain Services at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center after a tenure of
21 very distinguished and formative service, does hereby recognize and record for posterity his
22 notable accomplishments and manifold contributions to the Overton Brooks VA Medical
23 Center and the state of Louisiana, and does hereby extend to Mr. Voorhies best wishes as he
24 embarks upon new challenges and endeavors.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
26 to Dock Voorhies.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Burrell

HR No. 55

Commends Dock Voorhies upon his retirement after 33 years of dedicated service to the veterans of La.