

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 152

BY SENATOR ALARIO

A RESOLUTION

To commend Gary Ostroske, retiring chief executive officer of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, for twenty-five years of dedicated service and outstanding leadership, particularly with the highly effective recovery and rebuilding activities in Southeast Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and Hurricane Isaac.

WHEREAS, for twenty-five years, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana has been led and inspired by Gary Ostroske, its executive officer, an extraordinary leader who has directed and guided remarkable and life-saving activities and who is a legend among United Way executives; and

WHEREAS, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana serves the southeastern region of the state comprised of the parishes of Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, Gary Ostroske lost everything during Hurricane Katrina but never allowed himself to be distracted; to the contrary, he focused on how he and the United Way could assist those impacted by the event, and under his leadership and the effective work of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana an unprecedented number of citizens of Southeast Louisiana were able to return home to safe and affordable housing, and a safety net of health and human services programs was established for citizens struggling from the effects of the hurricane; and

WHEREAS, similar efforts and results were evident in the productive recovery and rebuilding efforts after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and Hurricane Isaac; and

WHEREAS, with Gary Ostroske's leadership and guidance, the United Way of Southeast Louisiana funds programs, supports collaborations, convenes experts, and fosters new and needed community services based upon best practices, and works to ensure quality health and human services for the citizens of the seven parish area and assesses the success

of programs based upon the achievement of predefined outcomes; and these efforts have proven to be very successful in carrying out its mission; and

WHEREAS, services provided include educational programs serving thousands of youth, a comprehensive array of substance abuse and prevention services serving adults and youth, emergency and ongoing assistance with food needs for over a half million individuals and families, and programs designed to build stronger neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, United Way of Southeast Louisiana programs in 2010 addressed priorities such as housing, medical and mental health care, child and adult care, and academic supports; served over four hundred eighty thousand unduplicated clients; and since Hurricane Katrina the United Way of Southeast Louisiana has made grants of over sixty-six million dollars to area health and human service agencies, and invested around eighteen million dollars per year in the region; and

WHEREAS, Gary Ostroske will begin a much deserved retirement in September and it is appropriate that the Legislature of Louisiana recognize his achievements, efforts, and dedication, and service regarding his community and state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize and commend Mr. Gary Ostroske, retiring chief executive officer of United Way of Southeast Louisiana, for his extraordinary leadership and dedicated service to the seven parish area and the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Gary Ostroske.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE