

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 155

BY SENATORS MARTINY, ADLEY, ALARIO, AMEDEE, BROOME, CASSIDY, CHAISSON, CHEEK, CRAVINS, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY, DUPLESSIS, DUPRE, ERDEY, B. GAUTREAUX, N. GAUTREAUX, GRAY, HEBERT, HEITMEIER, JACKSON, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARIONNEAUX, MCPHERSON, MICHOT, MORRISH, MOUNT, MURRAY, NEVERS, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SHEPHERD, SMITH, THOMPSON AND WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To commend the Crescent River Port Pilots' Association (CRPPA) upon the occasion and celebration of its one hundred year anniversary of piloting on the Mississippi River.

WHEREAS, since 1908, the Crescent River Port Pilots have been safely and efficiently guiding ships up and down the one hundred six miles of the Mississippi River between Pilottown and New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the Crescent River Pilots use their knowledge of local waters and port conditions and their experience as professional pilots to protect Louisiana's people, economy, and ecology; and

WHEREAS, the Crescent River Pilots work closely with the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, and shipping agencies to safely navigate more than five thousand two hundred ninety-six vessels a year and where last year alone the Crescent River Pilots logged over fifteen thousand turns and transported nearly five hundred sixty million tons of cargo on the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the CRPPA has been an essential part of keeping the Mississippi River commerce safely flowing for the past one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, the CRPPA pilots are on the leading edge of safe and efficient navigation, undergoing extensive training and hands-on experience; and

WHEREAS, not only do the Crescent River Pilots support and utilize innovative technology used in the Vessel Traffic System (VTS), but they also played an active role in its development; and

WHEREAS, the CRPPA pilots navigate on one of the most treacherous rivers in the world with an impressive safety rating of almost one hundred percent; and

WHEREAS, because the Crescent River Pilots are often the only American presence on foreign ships, they are Coast Guard and Department of Homeland Security licensed and trained to protect American civilian, ecological, and economic interests; and

WHEREAS, the CRPPA has engaged in many efforts to enhance the economic development of the port system in South Louisiana, such as being instrumental in maximizing the usable draft to maximize business profits, developing the cruise ship industry, and partnering with the Port of New Orleans to promote the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the Crescent River Pilots were instrumental in the reopening of port operations after Hurricane Katrina by moving ships, reanchoring vessels, and by piloting emergency and support vessels; and

WHEREAS, the Crescent River Pilots worked tirelessly to keep the Mississippi River, a vital economic and rescue highway, open to rescue and rebuilding operations; and

WHEREAS, the Crescent River Pilots have contributed greatly to many philanthropic interests by donating through their foundation, the Crescent River Port Foundation, to notable charitable organizations, such as Jefferson Dollars for Scholars, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and many others.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Crescent River Port Pilots' Association upon the occasion of its centennial celebration in 2008 and does hereby congratulate its one hundred two active pilots and the many retired dedicated pilots on the past one hundred years of exceptional service to the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Crescent River Port Pilots' Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE