

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 15

BY REPRESENTATIVE STUART BISHOP

A RESOLUTION

To commend Elijah Evans of Youngsville for being recognized as a top youth volunteer of 2014 by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

WHEREAS, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards is a nationwide program honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, sixteen-year-old Elijah Evans was nominated from Comeaux High School in Lafayette for the work he has done to raise the awareness of his community about child abuse and to improve the lives of foster children by promoting and hosting an annual Christmas party for children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Evans suffered abuse at the tender age of two, and spent years in foster care until he was adopted by a nurse who had cared for him during his many hospital stays; his adopted mother showed Elijah the love and care that has made him the compassionate individual he is today; and

WHEREAS, his experiences implanted in him a desire to help others who were suffering as he had suffered; to that end, Elijah freely shared his own story of abuse at churches, schools, civic organizations, and with the media; he recruited volunteers, sold raffle tickets, and self-designed T-shirts, and collected donations; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving a list of seventy-two foster children from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Elijah Evans used the funds he collected to host his first Christmas of Hope; since then, it has become a yearly event and Mr. Evans has formed "No Use For Abuse", an organization to pursue more initiatives to help abused children and foster children feel wanted; and

WHEREAS, as a Prudential Spirit of Community Award recipient for 2014, Elijah Evans received a one thousand dollar award, an engraved silver medallion, and will travel

to the nation's capitol May 3-6 to join award winners from other states for a series of national recognition events; and

WHEREAS, students like Elijah Evans represent the best of America's youth and are role models to their peers and in their communities, and it is appropriate to congratulate him upon being selected to receive this recognition by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Elijah Evans of Youngsville upon being recognized as a top youth volunteer by the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program for 2014; does hereby extend to him heartiest congratulations for his continuing endeavors in shining the light of awareness on child abuse; and does hereby wish him much success as he continues to bring a Christmas of Hope each year to foster children in his community of Youngsville.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Elijah Evans.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES