

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY SENATOR MORRELL

A RESOLUTION

To commend Mary Claire Landry, founder and Executive Director of the New Orleans Family Justice Alliance, upon her receipt of the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from Alliance for HOPE International.

WHEREAS, at this time the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana wishes to acknowledge the outstanding leadership of Mary Claire Landry, who has worked tirelessly to improve the availability of services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, according to survey data, one in six females will suffer some kind of sexual violence induced by an intimate partner during the course of her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Landry is determined to reduce those statistics and create better outcomes for victims of abuse through empowerment and education; and

WHEREAS, as a licensed clinical social worker with a master's degree in social work from Tulane University and a master's degree in business administration from the University of New Orleans, Mary Claire Landry is a relentless crusader for the rights and services afforded survivors of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Mary Claire Landry coordinates local agencies, criminal justice, and social services into an effective delivery system of alternatives for those individuals who have been subjected to domestic violence, child abuse, stalking, human trafficking, and sexual assault; and

WHEREAS, named Director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services within Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; she led the revival of the domestic abuse program in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005; and

WHEREAS, she directed efforts to restore services, and under her guidance, Crescent House was revived as a haven for domestic abuse victims; the shelter was coupled with the

establishment of an onsite office of the Domestic Violence Unit of the New Orleans Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Mary Claire Landry secured much needed federal funding from the Office on Violence Against Women of the United States Department of Justice to keep the operation going during this turbulent period; and

WHEREAS, this integration of agencies was the blueprint for a new system of coordinated services to aid victims of domestic violence that would later become the New Orleans Family Justice Center in 2007; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the organization morphed into the New Orleans Family Justice Center Alliance which had separated from Catholic Charities to emerge as a new agency that was comprised of a partnership of nine public and private agencies in one central location to provide a consolidated community response to domestic violence cases; and

WHEREAS, along with community and criminal justice stakeholders, the New Orleans Family Justice Center Alliance has been on the forefront of updating local protocols, improving laws, addressing needs, and refining services that empower survivors; and

WHEREAS, these comprehensive services include a 24-hour crisis line, emergency housing, trauma counseling for adults and children, civil legal assistance, temporary restraining order assistance, transitional housing, education and employment services, and teen dating violence prevention services; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Mary Claire Landry also served as president of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a statewide affiliation of shelters, nonresidential programs, and individuals working to end domestic violence in the state; and

WHEREAS, inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame, Mary Claire was recognized as an innovator who made a positive impact on the criminal justice system in the state; and

WHEREAS, on the 20th anniversary of the passage of the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), Mary Claire Landry was honored with a presentation by Vice President Joe Biden, who, as a United States senator, authored the landmark legislation that made domestic abuse an enforceable offense; and

WHEREAS, in March 2019, Mary Claire Landry received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Alliance for HOPE International at the 19th Annual International Family Justice Center Conference in San Diego, California; praised by her peers, "that she is one of the most transformational leaders in the history of the domestic and sexual assault movements in Louisiana, but her reach goes far beyond the city of New Orleans and the state of Louisiana, Mary Claire Landry has inspired Family Justice Centers across the United States and around the world"; and

WHEREAS, for Mary Claire Landry, the breadth of her work includes the creation of new pathways of hope for victims of trauma and abuse and positive efforts to break the generational cycles of victims and perpetrators; and

WHEREAS, Camp HOPE America - Louisiana is a sleep away camp experience and mentoring program for youth exposed to abusive situations; it provides confidence-building activities and counseling for children and teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Mary Claire Landry undertakes the social complexities of domestic violence that include the infrastructure of training on the neurobiology of trauma and the science of hope, investigation and prosecution strategies, effective Family Justice Center procedures, and those programs, services, and practices designed to mitigate trauma in adult and child survivors; and

WHEREAS, Mary Claire Landry is relentless, passionate, and totally inspirational; she is a champion of those affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse in Orleans Parish.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Mary Claire Landry upon her receipt of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alliance for HOPE International.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge the good works of Mary Claire Landry and wish her continued success in her mission to aid and empower survivors of domestic abuse.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mary Claire Landry.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE