

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 118

BY SENATOR MICHOT

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc., and Air Med Services, L.L.C., for their outstanding rescue and recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc., and Air Med Services,
3 L.L.C., for their outstanding rescue and recovery efforts following hurricanes Katrina
4 and Rita.

5 WHEREAS, in the multifaceted response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita, no rescue
6 effort was more inspiring, uplifting, and successful than that of Acadian Ambulance Service,
7 Inc. and Air Med Services, L.L.C., Louisiana's premier privately owned ambulance
8 company; and

9 WHEREAS, while Acadian Ambulance Service medics took on the daunting task of
10 coordinating communications and medical services at the New Orleans Superdome, the
11 primary focus was on evacuation of hospitals; and

12 WHEREAS, seriously ill patients were trapped in buildings without power or
13 communications, where a hospital might have 400 patients, but staff and family members
14 of patients could bring that to 1,000; and

15 WHEREAS, Acadian transported approximately 2,500 patients and another 3,000
16 to 4,000 staff members and patients, under difficult and dangerous circumstances --
17 including being fired upon in New Orleans; and

18 WHEREAS, Acadian's fleet of medically configured helicopters remained in the air

1 for five days straight, using at least 5,000 gallons of fuel; and

2 WHEREAS, scores of men and women manned the high tech communications center
3 – operating, among other technology, 100 phone lines 24 hours a day for 10 consecutive
4 days; and

5 WHEREAS, Katrina’s devastation extended beyond Louisiana, as did Acadian’s
6 rescue efforts, as the Acadian staff serving that area faced many of the same challenges and
7 trials as their co-workers in Louisiana, and overcame them with the same dedication and
8 commitment; and

9 WHEREAS, Acadian Ambulance Service performed its heroic mission with no
10 guarantee that there would be compensation for the vast expenditure of resources; and

11 WHEREAS, the remarkable disaster response of Acadian in the New Orleans area
12 and in those coastal parishes devastated by Hurricane Rita brought honor to Louisiana as
13 Acadian was featured on major network newscasts and talk shows, and in reports by the
14 nation’s leading newspapers; and

15 WHEREAS, First Lady Laura Bush visited the Acadian Ambulance Service Dispatch
16 and Communications Center to express appreciation for the company’s leadership role in
17 providing EMS services and evacuating patients from hospitals and nursing homes; and

18 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush, in a recorded message to the men and
19 women of Acadian Ambulance Service, said they and the other first responder agencies that
20 joined them in hurricane rescue efforts, brought an unprecedented level of heroism to the
21 field of emergency response - “There was unmatched valor, unequalled innovation in meeting
22 the needs of the storm victims, and a can-do attitude that uplifted and inspired all of us who
23 saw it in the national media,” the president said; and

24 WHEREAS, former President George Herbert Bush came to Louisiana to pay tribute
25 to the men and women of Acadian at the company’s annual Paramedic Luncheon where he
26 spoke of the “the heroism, skill and sacrifice that went into saving so many lives and easing
27 so much suffering,” and he also paid tribute to the 400 ambulances and 1200 EMS personnel
28 from around the nation who assisted in the four days of rescue efforts -- with the guidance
29 and coordination of Acadian Ambulance Service; and

30 WHEREAS, the former president referred to the Acadian paramedics as America’s

1 heroes, “Nothing could have been more grueling – more stressful – than those hours when
2 medics toiled to evacuate thousands of people from hospitals,” he said. “Medics were in the
3 field 24 hours straight. In many cases, these heroes worked unceasingly to help others,
4 knowing their own homes and all their possessions had been destroyed”; and

5 WHEREAS, former President Bush called it “profoundly inspirational that the fellow
6 employees of the medics in the field, without being asked, began almost immediately
7 making donations to assist them. Company officials say the generosity toward those who
8 were victims of the storm, as well as heroes of it, was overpowering.”; and

9 WHEREAS, Governor Kathleen Blanco, who coordinated the presentations at the
10 Paramedic’s Luncheon, called the event “a celebration of heroes,” as she told the Acadian
11 employees, “You worked in the trenches to keep Louisiana’s people safe” citing the
12 paramedics and other employee-owners of Acadian “met devastation with action” and noting
13 that other states, “don’t have as distinctive an ambulance service as Acadian”; and

14 WHEREAS, the national recognition given Acadian Ambulance Service extended
15 beyond recognition by the media and the leaders of the state and nation as the heroic, life-
16 saving efforts won the men and women of Acadian Ambulance Service one of the most
17 coveted honors in the emergency medical services field -- the 2006 James O. Page
18 Leadership Award presented “collectively” to the company’s employee-owners by JEMS,
19 the Journal of Emergency Medical Services; and

20 WHEREAS, the Acadian Ambulance Service employee-owners were also saluted
21 with *Inc.* magazine’s first annual Bernard A. Goldhirsch Courage Award, while the
22 company’s chairman and CEO, Richard Zuschlag, was honored as one the three top
23 entrepreneurs in the business world, primarily for his leadership during hurricane relief
24 efforts; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2005, Louisiana experienced one of the greatest disasters in the
26 history of the United States and Acadian Ambulance Service, in turn, performed one of the
27 most memorable and heroic responses to a catastrophic situation in the nation’s history.

28 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
29 commend and congratulate Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc., and Air Med Services, L.L.C.,
30 for their outstanding rescue and recovery efforts following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
2 Acadian Ambulance Service, Inc., and Air Med Services, L.L.C.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

DIGEST

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