

House Resolution 168

By: Representatives Hanson of the 80th, Holcomb of the 81st, and Oliver of the 82nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring Officer Joel Coward for his outstanding courage throughout his
2 career in law enforcement and his battle with cancer; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Officer Joel Coward has served with honor and distinction as an officer of the
4 City of Brookhaven Police Department since 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, he is an honest and dedicated public servant who strives for excellence in all
6 of his endeavors and whose primary concern is the welfare and safety of the citizens of
7 Brookhaven; and

8 WHEREAS, Officer Coward is highly regarded by the citizens of his community and by state
9 and local government officials as a man of unquestioned integrity and dedication to the
10 administration of justice and sound principles of law enforcement; and

11 WHEREAS, this spirited law enforcement professional has exhibited extraordinary devotion
12 to duty, outstanding loyalty, fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all of his
13 duties; and

14 WHEREAS, in September, 2016, Officer Coward was diagnosed with stage 3 stomach
15 cancer, but despite this significant challenge, he has continued to selflessly serve the City of
16 Brookhaven as a dedicated law enforcement officer; and

17 WHEREAS, Officer Coward's efficient and effective commitment to excellence and
18 contributions to the safety of Brookhaven have been recognized by his community and
19 colleagues, and the Brookhaven Police Foundation raised over \$35,000 in donations for his
20 treatment; and

21 WHEREAS, his inspiring commitment to the welfare of others is an outstanding example of
22 the positive effect law enforcement professionals have on the lives and well-being of others;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that gratitude is expressed for the unique and
25 often unheralded contributions of local law enforcement professionals on behalf of the
26 citizens of this state.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
28 the members of this body recognize and honor the care, courage, sympathy, and selfless
29 dedication exhibited by Officer Joel Coward in carrying out the difficult duties of his
30 profession despite unexpected challenges and wish for him a full and speedy recovery.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
32 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
33 Officer Joel Coward.