

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY REPRESENTATIVES ARMES AND MORENO

A RESOLUTION

To commend Hershel "Woody" Williams for his military achievements and efforts in recognizing and commemorating the service and devotion of our military service members and their families.

WHEREAS, Hershel Woodrow "Woody" Williams was born on October 2, 1923, grew up on a dairy farm in Quiet Dell, West Virginia, and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on May 26, 1943; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served in the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 21st Marines, 3rd Marine Division where his unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face of ruthless enemy resistance were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most fanatically defended Japanese strong points encountered by his regiment; his actions enabled his company to successfully reach its objective; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' actions, commitment to his fellow service members, and heroism were recognized on October 5, 1945, when he received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President Truman at the White House; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams retired after serving twenty years in the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserves and worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for thirty-three years as a veteran representative; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' devotion to military duty, service members, veterans, and their families began long before the Battle of Iwo Jima and before he enlisted into the Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, as World War II began, Mr. Williams came into direct contact with military families in his own community by delivering Western Union telegrams informing Gold Star families of the death of their loved one; and

WHEREAS, it was during this time that Mr. Williams observed that consideration and recognition of the families of fallen soldiers was very inadequate; this observation and his personal commitment to veterans and their families throughout the years led Mr. Williams to co-create the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation is a charitable organization focused on honoring Gold Star families and their fallen heroes by establishing Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in communities in all fifty states, offering scholarships to Gold Star children, sponsoring outreach events programs, and educating communities about Gold Star families and the sacrifice that these families have endured for our country; and

WHEREAS, the activities of the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation allow Mr. Williams to continue his devotion and commitment to those who serve our country and the Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in combat; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Williams continues to be honored for his military achievements and efforts, and his actions have again been recently recognized by our military and one of its highest officers as the secretary of the Navy named Expeditionary Sea Base Ship 4, the USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams mobile base sea vessel, which is expected to enter Navy service in early 2018.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Hershel "Woody" Williams for his individual sacrifice to our country and his continued efforts to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifice made by those in the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives for our country, our freedom, and our way of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Hershel "Woody" Williams.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES