

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARMODY, ABRAMSON, ADAMS, ANDERS, ARMES, ARNOLD, BADON, BARRAS, BARROW, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, STUART BISHOP, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROSSETT, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, CONNICK, COX, CROMER, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOVE, EDWARDS, FANNIN, FOIL, FRANKLIN, GAINES, GAROFALO, GEYMANN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HAZEL, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HOLLIS, HONORE, HOWARD, HUNTER, HUVAL, IVEY, GIROD JACKSON, KATRINA JACKSON, JAMES, JEFFERSON, JOHNSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LAMBERT, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, LEBAS, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, MACK, MILLER, MONTOUCET, MORENO, JAY MORRIS, JIM MORRIS, NORTON, ORTEGO, PEARSON, PIERRE, PONTI, POPE, PRICE, PUGH, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, SCHEXNAYDER, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SHADOIN, SIMON, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, TALBOT, THIBAUT, THIERRY, THOMPSON, WHITNEY, ALFRED WILLIAMS, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WILLMOTT

A RESOLUTION

To commend State Representative Nick Lorusso on twenty years of honorable and dedicated service to the United States Army and to recognize the immense pride that Representative Lorusso brings to his family, his state, and the Legislature of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, State Representative Nick Lorusso will celebrate his twentieth anniversary as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps officer on June 3, 2013, and it is appropriate to commend him for the distinction and honor with which he has served the United States Army and the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lorusso graduated magna cum laude from Jesuit High School, where he played football and wrestled, was the captain of the wrestling team, and won the state championship in his weight class during his senior year; Representative Lorusso also graduated from the University of New Orleans with a degree in history and went on to earn a law degree from the Louisiana State University Law Center in 1992; and

WHEREAS, upon graduating from law school, Representative Lorusso was commissioned as an active duty officer in the United States Army JAG Corps, and upon completion of U.S. Airborne School and receiving his Basic Parachutist wings, he was

stationed at Fort Drum, New York, with the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and served as a military prosecutor and special assistant U.S. Attorney; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lorusso was deployed to the Republic of Haiti during OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY as an International Law and Detention Operations Attorney, and upon returning to New Orleans in 1996 and transferring to the Army Reserves, Representative Lorusso began a general civil defense litigation law practice; and

WHEREAS, following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, Representative Lorusso was recalled to active duty as part of the global war on terrorism, and in 2004 he was mobilized to serve as Chief of the Legal Assistance Division, III Corps (Rear) at Fort Hood, Texas, where he was deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., to serve at the al-Qaida terrorist tribunals; and

WHEREAS, after a brief return to civilian law practice, Representative Lorusso was once again called to active duty in 2005, following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and served as the Command Judge Advocate of a hurricane recovery task force at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where he assisted more than three thousand two hundred soldiers and their families who lost their jobs or homes, or both, as a result of the hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, following a return to civilian law practice, Representative Lorusso was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in March 2007 in a special election and was reelected for a full four-year term in November of that year, and during his initial term in the House, Representative Lorusso was appointed as Vice Chairman of the Civil Law and Procedure Committee; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Representative Lorusso was recalled to active duty for the third time since September 11, 2001, and took a leave of absence from the Louisiana Legislature while he served as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate of I Corps (Rear) at Fort Lewis in Washington and was second in command of a one hundred thirty person legal office; and

WHEREAS, in October 2011, Representative Lorusso was reelected for a second four-year term and was appointed Chairman of the Special Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs and Vice Chairman of the retirement committee, and he also serves on the appropriations committee and the insurance committee, as well as the Joint Legislative

Committee on the Budget, the Governor's Military Advisory Committee, and the Battle of New Orleans Bicentennial Commission; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lorusso currently serves in the Army Reserves with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and will graduate from the United States Army War College in July 2013 with a Masters of Strategic Studies degree; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his remarkable military career, Representative Lorusso has been recognized many times for his bravery, dedication, and heroism, including: Meritorious Service Medal (2005), Joint Service Commendation Medal (1994), Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters (1996, 2003, 2006, 2013), Joint Service Achievement Medal (2005), Army Achievement Medal (2001), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters (2002, 2005, 2008), National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star (1993, 2004), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (1994), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2004), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2004), Armed Forces Service Medal (2005), Humanitarian Service Medal with one bronze star (1994, 2005), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (2003), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one bronze hour glass (2009), "M" Device with "2" device (2004, 2009), Army Service Ribbon (1993), Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon with "3" device (2003, 2006, 2008), Joint Meritorious Unit Award (1994, 2004), and Basic Parachute Wings (1993); and

WHEREAS, Representative Lorusso has been married to the love of his life, Michelle, for nineteen years, and they are the proud parents of three children: Nicholas, Sophia, and Katherine; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lorusso merits the highest commendation and sincere congratulations for his exemplary term of military service and for his outstanding contributions to the United States Army, to the Louisiana Legislature, and to his state and nation, whose citizens will long reap the benefits of his wonderful legacy.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend State Representative Nick Lorusso upon the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of his embarking upon a truly remarkable military career, does hereby express to him enduring appreciation for his many years of distinguished military and public service, does hereby record for posterity his vital contributions and his

tireless dedication to excellence, does hereby extend to him every good wish for continued success and happiness in his future endeavors, and does hereby recognize the tremendous pride and honor that he brings to his family, to the state of Louisiana, and to the Legislature of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to State Representative Nick Lorusso.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES