2024 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 171

BY REPRESENTATIVE BROWN

A RESOLUTION

To commend Nolan "Country" Ruiz on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday.

WHEREAS, Nolan "Country" Ruiz was born on May 8, 1924, and is a native of Plaquemine, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruiz served the United States during World War II after being drafted on November 16, 1942; he chose aerial gunnery school, and he learned the fundamental techniques of the turret and tail gunner on a B-17 bomber aircraft; and

WHEREAS, after graduating aerial gunnery school, Mr. Ruiz was deployed to England, traveling aboard the RMS Queen Elizabeth, and he reported to the 95th Bomb Group at Norwich; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruiz received the Flying Medal with oak leave clusters for his first twenty missions, which were bombing runs on rail yards and submarine shipyards in Germany; during his twenty-first mission, which was the first daylight bombing raid on Berlin on March 4, 1944, he and his crew were shot down and became POWs of Germany; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ruiz was held in a POW camp in East Prussia for fourteen months; after being freed, he returned to England and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, after his service, Mr. Ruiz returned to Plaquemine, where he and his mother operated a local restaurant named Country's Café; he and his wife, Gertrude, raised three daughters and served as the owners and operators of the café for forty-two years before his retirement in 1988.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Nolan "Country" Ruiz on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday; does hereby further recognize his inspiring bravery and perseverance as a POW during World War II; does hereby express profound gratitude for his military service; and does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors and enjoy good health as he joins the exclusive club of Louisiana's centenarians.

_____
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES