HLS 21RS-2155 ORIGINAL

2021 Regular Session

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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 91

BY REPRESENTATIVE MIKE JOHNSON

MEMORIALS: Commends The Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American Rose Society on leading the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier and encourages participation in commemorations on Memorial Day and Veterans Day

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2	To commend the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the
3	American Rose Society on leading the commemoration of the centennial of the
4	Unknown Soldier and to encourage participation in commemorations on Memorial
5	Day and Veterans Day.
6	WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier has
7	been preparing for the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier for several
8	years; the society received congressional approval to strike a centennial coin for the
9	occasion, and congress also authorized the secretary of defense to take appropriate action
10	in observing the centennial as a historical event; and
11	WHEREAS, the American Rose Society has joined the Society of the Honor Guard,
12	Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in preparation for the centennial of the Unknown Soldier; and
13	WHEREAS, the American Rose Society is a nonprofit organization whose mission
14	includes rose horticultural education, research, preservation of rose varieties, and rose
15	history; the society was established in Philadelphia in 1892, and its national headquarters
16	and rose gardens have been in Shreveport since the early 1970s; next year, the society will
17	celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the gardens in Northwest Louisiana,
18	where America's Rose Garden is open to the public and enjoyed year round by visitors from
19	around the world; and

1	WHEREAS, across America and in France, preparations are being made to
2	commemorate the centennial of the Unknown Soldier on the eleventh hour of the eleventh
3	day of the eleventh month of the year; and
4	WHEREAS, the rose was designated as America's national floral emblem by the
5	United States Senate and House of Representatives in an act signed by President Ronald
6	Reagan in 1986; and
7	WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier made
8	the white rose its official flower and encourages planting, displaying, and ceremonially
9	presenting the white rose at centennial ceremonies, commemorations, and reenactments; and
10	WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the
11	American Rose Society both recognize the power of roses as an effective representation of
12	patriotism and all matters of the heart; and
13	WHEREAS, white roses played a prominent role in the selection of the World War
14	I Unknown Soldier at Champagne-Chalon as a bouquet of white roses was laid upon the
15	Unknown Soldier's casket to designate the coffin that would hold the body of America's
16	Unknown Soldier; and
17	WHEREAS, France and its people remain intimately integrated in this state's history
18	and culture; vestiges of the French culture are prominent and celebrated throughout the state,
19	and French officials and French citizens also play an important role in preparing for the
20	centennial commemorations; and
21	WHEREAS, Louisiana's native son, Four-Star General Graves Blanchard Erskine of
22	Columbia, Louisiana, assisted in the return of the Unknown Soldier to American shores in
23	1921; he served heroically in World War I, World War II, and beyond, and after his
24	illustrious active duty military career, he served the U.S. Department of Defense until his
25	retirement in 1961; and
26	WHEREAS, today we have the tremendous honor of joining the centennial
27	commemoration and declaring, on Memorial Day, that 2021 is the "Year of the Unknown
28	Soldier"; the centennial of America's Unknown Soldier will be commemorated across the
29	great state of Louisiana on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2021, at 11:00 AM, when
30	Americans will pledge to recognize our sacred duty to never forget and to honor the

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1 Unknown Soldier who represents the millions of Americans who fought and died for our

2 liberty and freedom; and

WHEREAS, this Veterans Day shall also be a day to honor and remember

4 Louisiana's great hero, General Graves Blanchard Erskine, who served our nation well and

5 brought immense pride to both Louisiana and the United States.

7 commend the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American
 8 Rose Society on leading the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier; does

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby

hereby encourage the people of Louisiana to commemorate the centennial with the National

Salute by the firing of the twenty-one gun salute, ringing of bells, observing two minutes of

silence, or playing taps; does hereby encourage the attendance of Veterans' Day ceremonies,

visitation of military cemeteries and memorials, and the honoring of the American Flag; and

does hereby call Louisianians to dedicate special places in their gardens as "never forget"

gardens, which will serve as living tributes to all of America's veterans and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and to the American Rose

17 Society.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 91 Original

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Mike Johnson

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