

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, AND MARINO

A RESOLUTION

To commend posthumously the unselfish heroism of Sergeant John P. Ray, Jr., during his service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

WHEREAS, John Ray was born on August 15, 1922, in Gretna, Louisiana and attended Gretna Elementary School and Gretna High School; he played football for the high school team; and

WHEREAS, on January 9, 1941, at the age of eighteen, John Ray enlisted to serve in the military, and once the U.S. entered World War II, John Ray was quickly promoted to the rank of corporal and then sergeant; he proudly served in Company F, 505th Parachute Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, he met the woman he would marry, Paula Freeman, in Gretna, and the two were married on March 7, 1943, in Cut Off, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a week after their wedding, John shipped out back to his parachute infantry unit in Africa; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Ray served in World War II with great distinction, participating in the invasions of Africa and Italy; and

WHEREAS, on June 6, 1944, Sergeant John Ray was killed in action on D-Day in Saint Mère Église, France; Sergeant John Ray performed his military duties in an outstanding fashion and at great personal sacrifice, exhibiting courage and gallantry in the face of utmost danger; and

WHEREAS, the account of Sergeant John Ray's unselfish heroism is well documented in the books *D-Day: June 6, 1944: The Climatic Battle of World War II* by Stephen Ambrose and *Twenty-Five Yards of War: The Extraordinary Courage of Ordinary Men in World War II* by Ronald J. Drez; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Ray proudly and devoutly served his country; his heroism and sacrifice, although hidden in shadows of time, deserve universal recognition and unflagging gratitude; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant John Ray merits a sincere measure of posthumous commendation for his achievements and contributions as a sergeant in the United States Army and an exceptional son, brother, husband, and citizen.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincerest gratitude to Sergeant John Ray and commends him for his great service to America and his unselfish military heroism and does hereby recognize and extend sincere appreciation to Sergeant John Ray's widow, Paula F. Guidry of Lockport, Louisiana and other members of his family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of Sergeant John Ray.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES