

2020 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY REPRESENTATIVE TURNER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Adolf Wesselhoeft on his dedication and service to the United States and to recognize his inspiring patriotism.

WHEREAS, Adolf Wesselhoeft was born on September 8, 1936, in Chicago, Illinois, to German immigrant parents; and

WHEREAS, in 1942, after the United States declared war against Nazi Germany, Mr. Wesselhoeft's parents were forced to register as "enemy aliens", and his father was sent to a prisoner-of-war camp in Wisconsin; the Wesselhoeft family was later reunited and sent to a family internment camp in Crystal City, Texas; and

WHEREAS, in February 1944, the Wesselhoeft family was sent to New Jersey, where they were placed on the SS Gripsholm, a Swedish neutral ship, and exchanged for American prisoners-of-war held by the Nazis; and

WHEREAS, in Germany, the Wesselhoefts relied on the goodwill of extended family members who took them in; they lived in a suburb of Hamburg, one of the most heavily bombed cities in Germany, and survived bombings from both the British Royal Air Force and the United States Eighth Air Force; during this time, the Wesselhoeft family endured fear, deprivation, and hunger; and

WHEREAS, after the war ended, the family moved to Konstanz in southern Germany, which was part of the French zone of occupation; in Konstanz, Adolf Wesselhoeft attended and graduated from the prestigious Alexander-von-Humboldt Gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, during his time at gymnasium, he maintained regular contact with the United States Consulate in Stuttgart, which was a two-day bicycle ride from Konstanz, and returned to the United States as soon as the Consulate informed him that he, being an American citizen, could do so; and

WHEREAS, upon arriving in New York City, he sought out the military recruiting station in Times Square and enlisted in the United States Air Force as an airman basic; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wesselhoeft served for twenty-two years in the Air Force and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; during his service, he was commissioned as an officer and trained as a navigator and an electronic warfare officer (EWO); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wesselhoeft served in Vietnam as an EWO on EC121s and on B-52s, serving in the mighty Eighth Air Force, the very unit that bombed the city of Hamburg when he was a child; in total, Mr. Wesselhoeft flew 5,525 hours, 1,230 of which were during combat; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wesselhoeft also earned a degree in electrical engineering from the University of Missouri, graduating Cum Laude; after retiring from the US Air Force, he worked as an engineer for the Department of Energy's Strategic Petroleum Reserve; he retired at seventy years of age, having worked his entire adult life for the United States government; and

WHEREAS, despite the troubles of his childhood, Adolf Wesselhoeft has gone far above and beyond the call of duty to give back to his country; he is a disabled United States military veteran who embodies the American spirit, and his patriotism and service are most deserving of recognition.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Adolf Wesselhoeft on his lifelong dedication and service to the United States of America and does hereby recognize his inspiring patriotism in the face of struggle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Adolf Wesselhoeft.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES