

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 216

BY REPRESENTATIVE DIXON

A RESOLUTION

To commend Disabled American Veterans Department of Louisiana, upon the occasion of its ninety-second annual state convention and recognize the admirable, tireless work the organization does for disabled veterans and their families throughout our state and nation.

WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) was founded in 1920 to fulfill our country's promise to those who served; and

WHEREAS, Disabled American Veterans Department of Louisiana, was established in Louisiana in 1922, is headquartered in Baton Rouge, and is made up of seventeen chapters throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, DAV is a unique organization of disabled veterans helping disabled veterans; and

WHEREAS, DAV Central Louisiana Chapter 7 was established in 1959 to serve the Pineville and Alexandria areas; and

WHEREAS, the name of DAV Central Louisiana Chapter 7 was changed in 2007 to Paul P. Benoit Memorial Chapter 7, after an esteemed physician's assistant who worked at the Alexandria Veterans Association Medical Center and who was the driving force behind the local chapter's success over ten years; and

WHEREAS, currently composed of seven hundred twenty-nine members, the Paul P. Benoit Memorial Chapter 7 is tirelessly involved in the community by coordinating projects that make a difference in the lives of veterans such as having wheelchairs repaired, by brightening Christmas for those in the hospital and veterans homes by giving each hero a Christmas card with a five dollar bill inside, and by ringing the Salvation Army bell for donations for those in need; and

WHEREAS, in addition to caring, personal outreach, DAV, Department of Louisiana, helps financially support Louisiana veterans homes and donates its labor and resources to provide flags and wreaths for two veterans' cemeteries, Alexandria National Cemetery in Pineville and the newly opened Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery in Leesville; and

WHEREAS, composed of one million two hundred thousand members nationwide, DAV empowers veterans to lead full, high-quality lives with respect and dignity by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; and

WHEREAS, DAV fights for the interests of our nation's injured heroes and works to educate the public about the incredible sacrifices our veterans have made for the United States; and

WHEREAS, DAV provides free, professional assistance to veterans and their families in obtaining benefits earned through military service while caring for the complicated needs of those American heroes who are transitioning back to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, DAV is politically active, representing the interests of disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses, and their orphans; and

WHEREAS, DAV provides a structure through which disabled veterans can express compassion for their fellow veterans through a variety of volunteer and outreach programs, which creates a community of belonging and comraderie through common experiences; and

WHEREAS, the national DAV organization, as well as the state department and local chapters, are supported by membership dues, through fundraising events, and through the generous support of ordinary Americans throughout the nation who recognize the importance of their mission; and

WHEREAS, DAV is an invaluable and vital organization dedicated to aiding American heroes for their noble and admirable service to the United States of America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Disabled American Veterans, Department of Louisiana, upon the occasion of its ninety-second annual state convention and does hereby extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the work that it does in local communities, the state of Louisiana, and throughout the United States to show respect and appreciation for disabled veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Paul P. Benoit Memorial Chapter 7 of DAV Department of Louisiana.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES