

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

COMMENDATIONS. Commends posthumously Corporal Edward Desselle for his bravery and service in the Montford Point Marines and honors him as a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend posthumously Corporal Edward Desselle for his bravery and service in the
3 Montford Point Marines and honors him as a recipient of the Congressional Gold
4 Medal.

5 WHEREAS, Edward Desselle was born on July 27, 1924, in Rosa, Louisiana, to
6 Louis Cornelius Desselle and Rosina Monteilh; and

7 WHEREAS, he was a member of the first graduating class of Immaculate Conception
8 School in Lebeau, Louisiana, in May 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Desselle was a farmer at an early age then began a career as a CC
10 Camp Worker, a Higgins Shipyard employee, and served his country as a United States
11 Marine from 1944 until 1946; and

12 WHEREAS, upon allowing African-Americans to serve in the United States Marine
13 Corps in 1942, Mr. Desselle enlisted and attended basic training at Montford Point in
14 Jacksonville, North Carolina, in June 1944; and

15 WHEREAS, he served in the United States Marine Corps from June 10, 1944, until
16 August 17, 1946, as an 062/Steward and was stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for
17 the duration of his tour where he attained the rank of Corporal; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Desselle wore many hats while serving as a Marine, including

1 carpenter, welder, community supporter, farmer, and rancher; and

2 WHEREAS, upon receiving an honorable discharge from the United States Marine
3 Corps, Mr. Desselle returned to Louisiana and married his longtime love, Lou Wilda
4 Auzenne, in 1948; and

5 WHEREAS, to their union two daughters were born, Maxine Desselle Gradney and
6 Francine Desselle Young; and

7 WHEREAS, on September 23, 2017, Corporal Edward Desselle was awarded the
8 Congressional Gold Medal; and

9 WHEREAS, the medal, given in recognition of service to the United States, was
10 authorized by Congress and awarded to all Marines who attended recruit training at
11 Montford Point, North Carolina; and

12 WHEREAS, African-American Marines were not allowed to train with their
13 Caucasian counterparts, which led to segregated training; and

14 WHEREAS, although the efforts of the first African-American Marines are often
15 overshadowed by more popular and well-known units, their contributions are no less
16 significant; and

17 WHEREAS, in recognition of those contributions, President Barack Obama signed
18 into law a bill recognizing the efforts and history of the Montford Point Marines by awarding
19 them the Congressional Gold Medal; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Desselle passed away on February 4, 2018, and merits this
21 posthumous commendation for the tremendous honor, integrity, and service that he brought
22 to his family, his community, the state of Louisiana, the United States Marine Corps, the
23 United States of America, and to all who knew and loved him.

24 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
25 does hereby commend posthumously Corporal Edward Desselle for his bravery and service
26 in the Montford Point Marines, does hereby honor him for being a recipient of the
27 Congressional Gold Medal, and does hereby record for posterity the pride and honor that he
28 brought to his family, friends, community, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of
29 America.

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

