



1 Rommel; and

2 WHEREAS, as a medic he was transferred to the 757th Tank Battalion and the 473rd  
3 Infantry Regiment, and was one of the very few to serve in both units; and

4 WHEREAS, he spent two years storming the beaches of Southern Italy from Salerno  
5 to Cassino and participated in the liberation of Rome where his unit fought grueling  
6 encounters with well-trained German soldiers all the way back to the Alps; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen saw action from a Higgins boat, a tank, and on foot, and  
8 remembers mud, mountains, and mules while fighting for fifty-eight days in the same  
9 clothing and living in trenches and calling them "home"; and

10 WHEREAS, he witnessed many of his friends pass away and describes constant fear  
11 from endless artillery barrages; and

12 WHEREAS, on the march northward, his unit faced danger on a daily basis clearing  
13 mines by using their bayonets as probes; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen describes his unit watching in awe as approximately three  
15 thousand planes from the United States flew overhead signaling the beginning of the end of  
16 Nazi control in Italy; and

17 WHEREAS, one day in the city of Genoa, he was handling a phone that did not work  
18 well and picked up a button from the ground and banged the phone with it saying, "Hello,  
19 hello" when suddenly a voice said "Hello. Who is this?" and Mr. Lussen asked, "Who is  
20 this?" and the German commander of a five thousand man unit requested to speak with an  
21 American commander in order to surrender; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen handed the phone to his commander and the Germans  
23 surrendered which led to his claim to fame that he single-handedly helped capture thousands  
24 of Germans with a button; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen was "loaned" to General Charles DeGalle's French  
26 expeditionary force as a result of his outstanding medic skills, combat tenacity, selfless  
27 service, and love of country; and

28 WHEREAS, fighting the German invasion and occupation, General DeGalle's unit  
29 suffered serious injuries to top leadership and great loss of life, and Mr. Lussen was credited  
30 with heroic actions that saved many lives; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Lussen also encountered many brushes with death in hand-to-hand  
2 fights to the death for which he earned a Combat Infantry Badge; and

3           WHEREAS, for his participation in the liberation of France, Mr. Lussen earned the  
4 most prestigious medal, Croix de Guerre, which was established in 1802 by Napoleon  
5 Bonaparte and is the highest military honor in France with rank of Chevalier (Knight) in the  
6 French Legion of Honor; and

7           WHEREAS, at the end of the war, and after twenty-seven months of continual battle,  
8 he earned a space on the first available plane back to the United States, choosing to return  
9 home and carrying his last remaining bullet which he still keeps with him today; and

10          WHEREAS, Eugene Lussen is an exemplary member of an elite legion whose  
11 military service is a story of sacrifice, courage, and a tribute to all who served, and his quiet  
12 demeanor and modest testament belies his uncommon achievements even among his peers;  
13 and

14          WHEREAS, in addition to his many achievements, Mr. Lussen has earned the respect  
15 and admiration of the countless citizens whose lives he has touched; and

16          WHEREAS, Eugene Lussen, one of Louisiana's finest sons, merits a special measure  
17 of commendation for his achievements as a veteran and in celebration of his one hundredth  
18 birthday on October 17, 2020.

19          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
20 commend and congratulate Eugene Lussen for his exceptional and exemplary service as a  
21 member of the United States military; does hereby express to him enduring appreciation for  
22 his distinguished service to the citizens of the state of Louisiana and the United States of  
23 America; does hereby commend and congratulate him upon the historic occasion of his one  
24 hundredth birthday on October 17, 2020, and record for posterity the extraordinary life he  
25 has lived; and does hereby extend to him best wishes for continued happiness in all of his  
26 future endeavors.

27          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
28 Eugene Lussen.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

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DIGEST

SCR 4 Original

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

Hewitt

Commends Eugene Lussen on the celebration of his 100th birthday.