

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 263

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

SPECIAL DAY/WEEK/MONTH: Recognizes the first Friday in June as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the state

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To recognize the first Friday in June as National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the state.

3 WHEREAS, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence, and
4 more than 230 are shot and wounded; and

5 WHEREAS, on average, there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year in
6 America; and

7 WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people
8 in other high-income countries; and

9 WHEREAS, in an average year, Louisiana has 1,036 gun deaths, with a rate of 22.6
10 deaths per 100,000 people; all in all, Louisiana has the third highest rate of gun deaths in the
11 United States; and

12 WHEREAS, protecting public safety in the communities he or she serves is among
13 a legislator's highest responsibilities; and

14 WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes
15 hand-in-hand with keeping guns away from people that shouldn't have them; and

16 WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate the problem of gun
17 violence after more than a year of increased gun sales, increased calls to suicide and
18 domestic violence hotlines, and an increase in gun violence in cities, the imperative to
19 prevent gun violence is more important than ever; and

20 WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton was shot and killed at age 15; and

1 WHEREAS, on June 3, 2022, people across the United States will recognize National
2 Gun Violence Awareness Day and what would have been Hadiya's 25th birthday by wearing
3 orange in tribute to Hadiya and other victims of gun violence and the loved ones of the
4 victims of such violence; and

5 WHEREAS, the idea was initiated by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their
6 classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange, a color they chose because hunters
7 wear orange to make their presence known to other hunters, and orange is a color that
8 symbolizes the value of human life; and

9 WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to wear orange on June 3rd,
10 the first Friday in June, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

11 WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 3, Americans will raise awareness about gun
12 violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

13 WHEREAS, in so doing, the citizens of Louisiana renew their commitment to reduce
14 gun violence and pledge to do all that they can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands and
15 to encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep children safe.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
17 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the first Friday in June to be National Gun
18 Violence Awareness Day and does hereby encourage all citizens of the great state of
19 Louisiana to support their communities' efforts to honor and value human lives by
20 endeavoring to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 263 Original

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