

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 263

BY REPRESENTATIVE WILLARD

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES