

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENSGENS

COMMENDATIONS: Commends retired Brigadier General Robert Joseph LeBlanc for World War II service that is being awarded a Congressional Gold Medal

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend retired Brigadier General Robert LeBlanc of Abbeville for his service in the
3 WWII-era Office of Strategic Services which is receiving a Congressional Gold
4 Medal.

5 WHEREAS, retired Brigadier General Robert Joseph LeBlanc has received a number
6 of distinctions and awards for his service in the U.S. Army; he was commissioned as a
7 second lieutenant in May 1942 and called to active duty in July of that year and served until
8 1945; and

9 WHEREAS, in World War II, General LeBlanc volunteered for duty with the Office
10 of Strategic Services, the foundation of modern-day intelligence operations; he was tasked
11 with organizing, training, and supplying the fight throughout Europe and Asia and he served
12 in the Third U.S. Army Headquarters, Special Operations, as a liaison officer between the
13 army and the French underground;

14 WHEREAS, after World War II, Robert LeBlanc joined the Louisiana National
15 Guard and organized Company H, 156th Infantry, in Abbeville; he rose through the ranks
16 and became Commanding General, Louisiana Army National Guard Command, New
17 Orleans, in May 1972, and commanded all Army National Guard units; and

18 WHEREAS, during his distinguished military career, General LeBlanc was awarded
19 the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the American Defense Service Medal, the American
20 Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three stars,
21 the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one star, the World War II Victory Medal; the

1 National Defense Service Medal for his service in the Korean War, the Armed Forces
2 Reserve Medal, and an Expert Infantryman Badge; and

3 WHEREAS, for his civilian service, General LeBlanc has received two Louisiana
4 Distinguished Service Medals, the Louisiana Cross of Merit, the Louisiana Emergency
5 Service Medal, and the Louisiana Longevity Medal; he also received a Distinguished Service
6 Award from Vermilion Parish for services to the community and state; he was inducted into
7 the LSU Cadets of the Ole War Skule Hall of Honor in November 2000, into the Order of
8 Living Legends by the Acadian Museum of Erath in October 2001, and into the Louisiana
9 National Guard Hall of Fame in March 2006; General LeBlanc received a Humanitarian
10 Award from Vermilion Parish and in January 2006 was named *Chevalier* of the Legion of
11 Honor by the president of the French Republic; and

12 WHEREAS, since the American Revolution, the U.S. Congress has commissioned
13 gold medals as its highest expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements
14 and contributions; its recipients span from the nation's first president, George Washington,
15 to actors, authors, entertainers, musicians, pioneers in aeronautics and space, explorers,
16 lifesavers, notables in science and medicine, athletes, humanitarians, and public servants;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. LeBlanc was honored as a member of the Office of Strategic
19 Services in the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal on March 21, 2018, and it is
20 fitting to herald retired brigadier general and Louisiana native son Robert LeBlanc for his
21 contributions to the Office of Strategic Services as it receives one of the nation's highest
22 civilian honors, the Congressional Gold Medal.

23 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
24 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Brigadier General Robert Joseph LeBlanc
25 for his service in the Office of Strategic Services which is being awarded a Congressional
26 Gold Medal; does hereby acknowledge and record for posterity his many achievements in
27 the military and as a civilian; does hereby express the sincere gratitude of the citizens of
28 Louisiana for the work he has done through nine vigorous decades of life; and does hereby
29 offer hearty congratulations upon recognition by the U.S. Congress of his contributions to
30 Vermilion Parish, the state, and the nation.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
2 to Robert Joseph LeBlanc.

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 50 Original

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Hensgens

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