

2024 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY SENATOR CONNICK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Captain Lena Kaman on her distinguished military accomplishments.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Captain Lena Buettner Kaman on her distinguished military  
3 accomplishments and her demonstrated and exceptional dedication and service to the  
4 United States Navy and her country.

5 WHEREAS, Captain Lena Kaman is a native of Shawano, Wisconsin, and daughter  
6 of a Navy veteran of Korea and Vietnam; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain Kaman's illustrious career of military service began when she  
8 joined the Reserve Officer's Training Corps at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where  
9 she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in French in 2000; and

10 WHEREAS, following graduation, in March 2002, she was designated as a Naval  
11 Aviator and reported to HSL-40 in Mayport, Florida, for SH-60B Seahawk training; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2004, Captain Kaman served with distinction onboard the USS Leyte  
13 Gulf (CG 55) on a MED/MEF cruise and later on the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) from  
14 June through September 2005 in support of UNITAS and PANAMEX; and

15 WHEREAS, after successfully completing her first fleet tour, Captain Kaman's Naval  
16 contributions continued in the training arena, serving as an instructor pilot in the TH-57 at  
17 HT-18, NAS Whiting Field, Florida, where she was awarded the Pensacola Lions Club HT-  
18 18 Instructor of the Year for 2007; and

1           WHEREAS, Captain Kaman's accomplished military pursuits were further  
2 exemplified during her tenure as Training Air Wing Five's TH-57 Standardization Officer  
3 and as a member of America's Squadron, HT-8, where she was awarded the Association of  
4 the United States Navy Full-Time Support Officer of the Year for all Chief of Naval Air  
5 Training squadrons for 2010; and

6           WHEREAS, in addition to her bachelor's degree, her academic achievements include  
7 a master's degree in aeronautical science in 2011, from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical  
8 University and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies in 2017, from the  
9 Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island; and

10           WHEREAS, in 2012, Captain Kaman joined the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel  
11 in Washington, D.C. where she honorably served as the head enlisted advancement planner,  
12 and later served as the flag aide for the Chief of Navy Reserve; and

13           WHEREAS, in April 2018, she joined the HT-8 Eightballer team, serving first as the  
14 executive officer and then as the commanding officer until September 2020, and,  
15 impressively, under her leadership the squadron earned the CNATRA Training Excellence  
16 Award for advanced helicopter training; and

17           WHEREAS, Captain Kaman's commitment to service extended beyond her  
18 operational training roles as she served as the Legislative Fellow in the United States House  
19 of Representatives in 2021, and then on the Chief of Navy Reserve in the legislative affairs  
20 directorate until June 2022; and

21           WHEREAS, in August 2022, Captain Kaman assumed her current role of  
22 Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans; and

23           WHEREAS, during her career, Captain Kaman has flown more than four thousand  
24 two hundred hours in naval aircraft and has received numerous awards, including the Air  
25 Medal for flying over one hundred combat hours in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring  
26 Freedom, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Naval Commendation Medal, the Navy  
27 Achievement Medal, and various other service and campaign ribbons; and

28           WHEREAS, beyond her professional endeavors, Captain Kaman's dedication to her  
29 family is evident, balancing her military responsibilities with the joys of motherhood  
30 alongside her husband Christian and their twin sons, Jean-Paul and Theodore; and

