

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY REPRESENTATIVE HENSGENS

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, during his distinguished military career, General LeBlanc was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three stars, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one star, the World War II Victory Medal; the National Defense Service Medal for his service in the Korean War, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and an Expert Infantryman Badge; and

WHEREAS, for his civilian service, General LeBlanc has received two Louisiana Distinguished Service Medals, the Louisiana Cross of Merit, the Louisiana Emergency

Service Medal, and the Louisiana Longevity Medal; he also received a Distinguished Service Award from Vermilion Parish for services to the community and state; he was inducted into the LSU Cadets of the Ole War Skule Hall of Honor in November 2000, into the Order of Living Legends by the Acadian Museum of Erath in October 2001, and into the Louisiana National Guard Hall of Fame in March 2006; General LeBlanc received a Humanitarian Award from Vermilion Parish and in January 2006 was named *Chevalier* of the Legion of Honor by the president of the French Republic; and

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

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

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

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