

1 WHEREAS, across America and in France, preparations are being made to
2 commemorate the centennial of the Unknown Soldier on the eleventh hour of the eleventh
3 day of the eleventh month of the year; and

4 WHEREAS, the rose was designated as America's national floral emblem by the
5 United States Senate and House of Representatives in an act signed by President Ronald
6 Reagan in 1986; and

7 WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier made
8 the white rose its official flower and encourages planting, displaying, and ceremonially
9 presenting the white rose at centennial ceremonies, commemorations, and reenactments; and

10 WHEREAS, the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the
11 American Rose Society both recognize the power of roses as an effective representation of
12 patriotism and all matters of the heart; and

13 WHEREAS, white roses played a prominent role in the selection of the World War
14 I Unknown Soldier at Champagne-Chalon as a bouquet of white roses was laid upon the
15 Unknown Soldier's casket to designate the coffin that would hold the body of America's
16 Unknown Soldier; and

17 WHEREAS, France and its people remain intimately integrated in this state's history
18 and culture; vestiges of the French culture are prominent and celebrated throughout the state,
19 and French officials and French citizens also play an important role in preparing for the
20 centennial commemorations; and

21 WHEREAS, Louisiana's native son, Four-Star General Graves Blanchard Erskine of
22 Columbia, Louisiana, assisted in the return of the Unknown Soldier to American shores in
23 1921; he served heroically in World War I, World War II, and beyond, and after his
24 illustrious active duty military career, he served the U.S. Department of Defense until his
25 retirement in 1961; and

26 WHEREAS, today we have the tremendous honor of joining the centennial
27 commemoration and declaring, on Memorial Day, that 2021 is the "Year of the Unknown
28 Soldier"; the centennial of America's Unknown Soldier will be commemorated across the
29 great state of Louisiana on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2021, at 11:00 AM, when
30 Americans will pledge to recognize our sacred duty to never forget and to honor the

1 Unknown Soldier who represents the millions of Americans who fought and died for our
2 liberty and freedom; and

3 WHEREAS, this Veterans Day shall also be a day to honor and remember
4 Louisiana's great hero, General Graves Blanchard Erskine, who served our nation well and
5 brought immense pride to both Louisiana and the United States.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
7 commend the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American
8 Rose Society on leading the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier; does
9 hereby encourage the people of Louisiana to commemorate the centennial with the National
10 Salute by the firing of the twenty-one gun salute, ringing of bells, observing two minutes of
11 silence, or playing taps; does hereby encourage the attendance of Veterans' Day ceremonies,
12 visitation of military cemeteries and memorials, and the honoring of the American Flag; and
13 does hereby call Louisianians to dedicate special places in their gardens as "never forget"
14 gardens, which will serve as living tributes to all of America's veterans and their families.

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
16 Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and to the American Rose
17 Society.

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)]

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2021 Regular Session

Mike Johnson

Commends the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the American Rose Society on leading the commemoration of the centennial of the Unknown Soldier and encourages participation in commemorations on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.