HLS 14RS-2084 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59

BY REPRESENTATIVES HUVAL, BARRAS, STUART BISHOP, CHAMPAGNE, COX, HENSGENS, NANCY LANDRY, TERRY LANDRY, AND ROBIDEAUX AND SENATORS MILLS, CORTEZ, GUILLORY, AND PERRY

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences upon the death of John Raymond

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To express the condolences of the legislature upon the death of John Thomas Raymond and
3	to recognize and record his many contributions to the city of Breaux Bridge and the
4	state of Louisiana.
5	WHEREAS, upon the death of John Thomas Raymond, on Saturday, March 22,
6	2014, Louisiana has lost an able leader, a man whose accomplishments were enormous; and
7	WHEREAS, John Thomas Raymond began his distinguished military career during
8	World War II when he enlisted in the United States Navy for one year; he joined the United
9	States Army in 1950, and one year later, in 1951, he was commissioned as an officer; his
10	military career was nothing short of admirable, as it included a tour in the Korean War,
11	during which he served as a platoon leader in the 5th Regimental Combat Team and as the
12	platoon's youngest company commander; and
13	WHEREAS, his notable training in the military included paratrooper, jumpmaster,
14	ranger, and mountain climbing schools; while in Korea, John Thomas Raymond joined the
15	newly formed 77th Special Forces Group, which he took to Thailand in 1954, to organize
16	the Thai special forces; and
17	WHEREAS, John Thomas Raymond remained in Thailand to reorganize and train
18	the Royal Thai Army Ranger Battalion in special operations, and as a result of his admirable
19	contributions, he was recognized at a fiftieth anniversary ceremony in 2004 as the father of
20	the Royal Thai Army's special forces; after he returned from Thailand in 1955, John Thomas

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2	retired from the United States Army in 1969 as a lieutenant colonel; and
3	WHEREAS, John Thomas Raymond received numerous medals and awards in
4	recognition of his military career, those of which included the Silver Star, the Legion of
5	Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Army
6	Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross, and the Gold
7	Star; during his service in Korea, he was decorated for bravery and meritorious service by
8	the United States, the Republic of Korea, and the Republic of Vietnam; and
9	WHEREAS, since he retired from the military in 1969, John Thomas Raymond
10	served as a local businessman and civic leader, who worked in the healthcare industry; and
11	WHEREAS, John Thomas Raymond was founder and co-owner of the St. Agnes
12	Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, which opened in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, in 1984;
13	he was the first administrator of Gary Memorial Hospital and devoted his time as a Breaux
14	Bridge city councilman; and
15	WHEREAS, John Thomas Raymond, along with a business partner, opened Buck
16	and Johnny's restaurant in Breaux Bridge, which is located in a former building that his
17	father worked in during the 1950s and 1960s; and
18	WHEREAS, John Thomas Raymond was an acclaimed businessman with many
19	interests, and in addition to his business interests, he had been active in numerous civic
20	activities, including the Atchafalaya Basin Board and the Louisiana Boxing Commission;
21	he was also instrumental in the formation of the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and
22	Museum in Abbeville, Louisiana, and in the Breaux Bridge Downtown Merchants
23	Association; and
24	WHEREAS, John Thomas Raymond served on the Louisiana Nursing Home
25	Association Board of Directors for many years and was known for his dedication to his
26	community by being selected as King Agricole II of the Krewe de St. Martin; and
27	WHEREAS, the members of the legislature wish to recognize John Thomas
28	Raymond for his numerous accomplishments and contributions to the city of Breaux Bridge
29	and the state of Louisiana and especially wish to convey their deepest sympathy to his
30	family: his wife, Coatney Sibley Raymond; his son, John R. "Bobby" Raymond and his wife,

Raymond joined the 82nd Airborne Division and completed a tour in Vietnam in 1968 and

- 1 DeAnna; his daughters, Renee R. Delahoussaye and Carol Raymond; his grandson, John C.
- 2 Raymond and his wife, Joy; his great granddaughter, Sadie Laine Raymond; his stepsons,
- 3 Barrett Reid Branch and his wife, Angel, Byron Branch and his wife, Rhonda, and Beau
- 4 Branch and his wife, Wendy; his five stepgrandchildren, Sydney Branch, Barry Branch,
- 5 Deuce Hardy, Julian Branch, and Tylor Guillot.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
- 7 recognize and record the many accomplishments of John Raymond Thomas, and does extend
- 8 to his family the sincere sympathy of all members of the legislature upon his death.
- 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
- 10 family members of John Thomas Raymond.

## **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)]

Huval HCR No. 59

Expresses the condolences of the legislature upon the death of John Thomas Raymond of Breaux Bridge, La.