



1           WHEREAS, Elward Stephens was made of "all the right stuff"; he was born on a  
2           camp boat in Belle River to Gilbert and Alvinia Chaisson Stephens on August 29, 1924, and  
3           was reared through the hard times of the Great Depression; his schooling was cut short when  
4           he went to work at a service station in Morgan City at the age of fifteen; and

5           WHEREAS, drafted in 1942, Mr. Stephens was an excellent soldier and marksman  
6           and his fluency in the French language made him a vital asset on the front lines; on June 5,  
7           1944, he marched into Rome with the Allied Forces and thankful to be alive, took time to  
8           celebrate mass in a nearby Catholic Church; early the following morning, June 6, 1944, the  
9           Normandy Invasion began, and after a brief respite, his combat service continued to Pisa,  
10          to Marseilles, France, and onto the borders of Germany; and

11          WHEREAS, after being honorably discharged, Elward Stephens returned to his home  
12          in South Louisiana; he continued his education and he began a career in seismography and  
13          petroleum exploration in the waters of the Gulf of Mexico; he was employed by Humble Oil,  
14          now known as Exxon-Mobil, and later by Shell Oil where he retired after thirty years of  
15          service; and

16          WHEREAS, in 1947, at a dance in Morgan City, he met and fell in love with a lovely  
17          lass named Olive Boudreaux; they married and reared three sons in a home that Elward built  
18          himself; and

19          WHEREAS, Elward Stephens was not defined by the horrific circumstance of war;  
20          his character was strengthened by the experience; upon his return to Louisiana, the place that  
21          he loved; his resolve was to "get on with living," to grow, thrive, make a good life for  
22          himself, and to be blessed with a family; and

23          WHEREAS, Elward Stephens had that whimsical *joie de vie*, the joy of life; he was  
24          the kind of individual who grasps all the happiness that he could find, he was a steward of  
25          the land he loved, and he was a gracious servant of his God; he never met a stranger and he  
26          gave generously of his time and talent to the community; and

27          WHEREAS, Mr. Stephens began his military service in the midst of World War II  
28          in the United States Army with the Allied Invasion of Italy and encountered some of the  
29          most savage fighting in military engagements throughout Europe; and

30          WHEREAS, Mr. Elward Stephens came through the trepidation of warfare to emerge

1 from it a stronger, more determined, human being; his was a charmed life and he lived to  
2 celebrate V-E Day, the surrender of Axis Forces in Europe, on the eighth of May each year  
3 for seven decades.

4 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
5 express sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Mr. Elward J. Stephens from the  
6 community of Stephenville in St. Martin Parish.

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
8 posthumously recognize the military service of Mr. Elward J. Stephens in the United States  
9 Army as a veteran of World War II in the European Theater and for his meritorious  
10 contributions to the freedom of all citizens of the United States which shall not be forgotten;  
11 and that this acknowledgment reflects his unselfish sacrifice to duty, honor, and country.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his  
13 widow, Mrs. Olive B. Stephens.

---

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

---

DIGEST

SCR 7 Original

2016 Second Extraordinary Session

Ward

Expresses condolences upon the death of Mr. Elward J. Stephens of St. Martin Parish.