

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 114

BY SENATORS GATTI AND PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Major Ron Chatelain, on his service to his country in the United States Army.

WHEREAS, Major Chatelain has been hailed as one of the nation's most highly decorated veterans of the Vietnam War, where he served two tours in Vietnam and acknowledged as the most decorated living veteran in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, medals awarded to Major Chatelain include the Army's second highest award of Valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with "V" device and Oak Leaf Cluster, five Purple Heart medals (two awarded, three pending), and the Army Achievement medal also with "V" device; and

WHEREAS, many of the medals he received are awarded to troops posthumously; and

WHEREAS, Major Chatelain distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on June 14, 1969, while serving as a forward observer in support of an ambush patrol engaged with an enemy force on the Bau Dieu Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, after he had directed fire on the hostile positions from his helicopter and succeeded in silencing the enemy, his craft landed to take aboard casualties; and

WHEREAS, just as the aircraft set down, it was struck by rocket-propelled grenade fire; and

WHEREAS, despite his own wounds, Major Chatelain immediately began helping the more seriously wounded crew members to safety; and

WHEREAS, organizing the remnant of the patrol into a defensive perimeter, he called in and adjusted gunship fire on hostile positions; and

WHEREAS, Major Chatelain then supervised the medical evacuation of his wounded comrades and directed his men to unleash a barrage of rifle fire on the enemy until a relief unit arrived; and

WHEREAS, he bravely faced and escaped peril many other times in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Major Chatelain was shot down in aircraft three times, survived sniper fire on multiple occasions, and stepped on a landmine that did not explode; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Chatelain's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Major Ron Chatelain on his service to his country in the United States Army.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Major Ron Chatelain.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES