

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

BY SENATOR HEWITT

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Eugene Lussan on the celebration of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend Eugene Lussan on the celebration of his one hundredth birthday.

WHEREAS, Eugene J. Lussan was born in the French Quarter in New Orleans, Louisiana, on October 17, 1920, to Jacque "Jimmy" Lussan and Josephia Impastata Lussan; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in the French Quarter until the age of eleven when his family moved to Gentilly; and

WHEREAS, as a youngster, he made money by walking race horses from the train station on Gentilly Road to The Fairgrounds, crabbing off the seawall on Lake Ponchatrain and selling the crabs for twenty-five cents a dozen, and working at a gas station for six dollars a week when he was older; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lussan attended Jefferson Davis Grade School, Capdau Middle School, and graduated from Warren Eason High School; and

WHEREAS, possessing a great talent for artwork his entire life, after World War II, he attended Delgado College and completed two years in graphic arts, graduating at the top of his class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lussan enrolled in Delgado College once again for two additional years to complete a two-year course in iron welding, rigging, and reading blue prints, and

1 once again graduated at the top of his class; and

2 WHEREAS, in 1939, he joined the Louisiana National Guard, serving the 106th  
3 Medical Regiment at Jackson Barracks; and

4 WHEREAS, he was called to active duty at Camp Blanding, Florida, and it was  
5 during that time that he met a young lady, Myrtis Louise Dawkins, from Valdosta, Georgia,  
6 at a dance where they talked and danced until the wee hours of the morning; and

7 WHEREAS, after knowing each other for forty-eight hours, Mr. Lussan proposed  
8 and she accepted, and at the time of her passing they had been married more than sixty years;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, they had four children and he is the proud grandfather of eight  
11 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Lussan did not see his son Kenny until after the war ended and  
13 Kenny remembers seeing his father in uniform for the first time when he was two years old  
14 and thinking the sight of his father was magnificent; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1940, he was inducted into the United States Army at Camp Blanding  
16 in Northern Florida near Georgia and sent to numerous training camps in North Carolina,  
17 South Carolina, Fort Dix in New Jersey, and two training camps in Texas, shipping out from  
18 Fort Dix to North Africa to Casablanca, Morocco, after eighteen days on the water as the  
19 unit dodged German submarines called "The Wolf Pack"; and

20 WHEREAS, as a medic he was transferred to the 757th Tank Battalion and the 473rd  
21 Infantry Regiment, and was one of the very few to serve in both units; and

22 WHEREAS, he spent two years storming the beaches of Southern Italy from Salerno  
23 to Cassino and participated in the liberation of Rome where his unit fought grueling  
24 encounters against well-trained German soldiers forcing them all the way back to the Alps;  
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Lussan saw action from a Higgins boat, a tank, and on foot, and  
27 remembers mud, mountains, and mules while fighting for fifty-eight days in the same  
28 clothing, living in trenches, and calling them "home"; and

29 WHEREAS, he witnessed many of his friends suffer the ultimate sacrifice and  
30 describes the constant fear he felt from endless artillery barrages; and

1           WHEREAS, on the march northward, his unit faced danger on a daily basis clearing  
2 mines by using their bayonets as probes; and

3           WHEREAS, Mr. Lussan describes his unit watching in awe as approximately three  
4 thousand planes from the United States flew overhead signaling the beginning of the end of  
5 Nazi control in Italy; and

6           WHEREAS, one day in the city of Genoa, he was handling a phone that did not work  
7 well and picked up a button from the ground and banged the phone with it saying, "Hello,  
8 hello," when suddenly a voice said, "Hello. Who is this?" and Mr. Lussan responded, "Who  
9 is this?" and the German commander of a five thousand man unit requested to speak with  
10 an American commander in order to surrender; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Lussan handed the phone to his commander and the Germans  
12 surrendered which led to his claim to fame that he single-handedly helped capture thousands  
13 of Germans with a button; and

14           WHEREAS, he was "loaned" to General Charles de Gaulle's French expeditionary  
15 force as a result of his outstanding medic skills, combat tenacity, selfless service, and love  
16 of country; and

17           WHEREAS, fighting the German invasion and occupation, General de Gaulle's unit  
18 suffered serious injuries to top leadership and great loss of life, and Mr. Lussan was credited  
19 with heroic actions that saved many lives; and

20           WHEREAS, he encountered many brushes with death in hand-to-hand combat for  
21 which he earned a Combat Infantryman Badge; and

22           WHEREAS, for his participation in the liberation of France, Mr. Lussan earned the  
23 most prestigious medal, the Croix de Guerre, which was established in 1802 by Napoleon  
24 Bonaparte and is the highest military honor in France with the rank of Chevalier (Knight)  
25 in the French Legion of Honor; and

26           WHEREAS, at the end of the war, and after twenty-seven months of continual battle,  
27 he earned a space on the first available plane back to the United States, choosing to return  
28 home and carrying his last remaining bullet which he still keeps with him today; and

29           WHEREAS, Eugene Lussan is an exemplary member of an elite legion whose  
30 military service is a story of sacrifice, courage, and a tribute to all who served, and his quiet

1 demeanor and modest testament belies his uncommon achievements even among his peers;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in addition to his many achievements, Mr. Lussan has earned the respect  
4 and admiration of the countless citizens whose lives he has touched; and

5 WHEREAS, Eugene Lussan, one of Louisiana's finest sons, merits a special measure  
6 of commendation for his achievements as a veteran and in celebration of his one hundredth  
7 birthday on October 17, 2020.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 commend and congratulate Eugene Lussan for his exceptional and exemplary service as a  
10 member of the United States military; does hereby express to him enduring appreciation for  
11 his distinguished service to the citizens of the state of Louisiana and the United States of  
12 America; does hereby commend and congratulate him upon the historic occasion of his one  
13 hundredth birthday on October 17, 2020, records for posterity the extraordinary life he has  
14 lived; and does hereby extend to him best wishes for continued happiness in all of his future  
15 endeavors.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to  
17 Eugene Lussan.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Nancy Vicknair.

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DIGEST

SCR 13 Original

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