SLS 22RS-1453 ORIGINAL

2022 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25

BY SENATOR FOIL

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Lydia Smith Grant on the occasion of her 95th birthday.

1	A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2	To commend Mrs. Lydia Smith Grant on the occasion of her 95th birthday on April 25,
3	2022.
4	WHEREAS, it is a distinguished privilege for the Legislature of Louisiana to
5	congratulate Lydia Smith Grant on her extraordinary life and honor her as not only a
6	survivor, but also as a vibrant and productive resident of her community; and
7	WHEREAS, Lydia Smith was born on April 25, 1927, in Bath, Maine, where both
8	her father and grandfather were bankers; Lydia's stepfather attended the United States Naval
9	Academy, and in 1938, was assigned for duty to the U.S. Naval Base Pearl Harbor near
10	Honolulu, Hawaii; and while her family was living on the naval base, she once had the
11	famed actress Shirley Temple attend her birthday party; and
12	WHEREAS, at the invitation of the Captain Franklin Van Valkenburgh who was her
13	stepfather's roommate while attending the Naval Academy and known to her as "Uncle
14	Van", Lydia planned to have dinner and watch a movie with her friends on board the USS
15	Arizona on the evening of December 7, 1941; and
16	WHEREAS, the dinner was not to be as just before 8:00 a.m. on that morning at the
17	young age of fourteen, Lydia witnessed first-hand the surprise attack by Japanese forces on
18	Pearl Harbor and the mass devastation resulting therefrom; and

1	WHEREAS, bombs from the Japanese fighter planes strafed the quarters where
2	Lydia and her family lived as well as the road in front of their quarters that was being used
3	by sailors attempting to get back to their ships; and
4	WHEREAS, following the attack, Lydia was evacuated to the United States where
5	she endured rationing and other restrictions, and for Lydia and her family, it was especially
6	difficult to witness the stateside populace not nearly as deeply moved by the attack on Pearl
7	Harbor as the survivors; and
8	WHEREAS, in the weeks and months following the attack, there were many charity
9	events held to help recovery efforts and Lydia distinctly recalls the emotional flashback she
10	felt when a false alarm of a subsequent Japanese attack occurred during her attendance at
11	one of the events; and
12	WHEREAS, when World War II ended, at a celebration taking place in Washington,
13	D.C., Lydia had the opportunity to meet the great American army general and Nobel Peace
14	Prize recipient, General George C. Marshall; and
15	WHEREAS, at a ceremony in July 2016, to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of
16	the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mrs. Grant recounted to dozens of residents and veterans who
17	gathered aboard the USS Kidd in Baton Rouge, her harrowing story of Japanese fighter
18	planes swooping overhead and her family's efforts to survive the multitude of bomb strikes;
19	and
20	WHEREAS, Mrs. Grant is part of the original group that started the Salvation Army
21	Women's Auxiliary, and she is one of the original thirteen founding members of Trinity
22	Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge; and
23	WHEREAS, Mrs. Lydia Smith Grant merits a special measure of recognition for the
24	astounding pride and purpose she brings to her community, family, friends, and state.
25	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
26	commend and congratulate Lydia Smith Grant on the occasion of her 95th birthday, does
27	hereby recognize her extraordinary life experiences, and wishes her a full measure of
28	happiness for years to come.
29	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
30	Mrs. Lydia Smith Grant.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Dawn Romero Watson.

DIGEST 2022 Regular Session

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Commends Mrs. Lydia Smith Grant on the occasion of her 95th birthday.

SCR 25 Original