

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 229

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARVER

A RESOLUTION

To commend Morris A. Collura on the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and to acknowledge his military service to his country during World War II.

WHEREAS, on June 30, 2022, Morris A. Collura will become a member of an exclusive club of Louisiana centenarians, numbering less than a thousand; and

WHEREAS, in an earlier part of his century on earth, Mr. Collura was proud to serve the United States in the Army Signal Corps during World War II, a tour of duty that lasted from November 23, 1942, to November 6, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Morris was trained by the Army and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean in a converted banana boat from which the refrigeration had been removed, a fact Mr. Collura doesn't fail to include in recollections of his cross-Atlantic trip; he was assigned to the North African campaign under the command of General George S. Patton; Morris faithfully carried out his duties until the Axis powers were defeated in North Africa; and

WHEREAS, from 1944 to 1945, Morris was stationed with Combat Engineers on Corsica, where his unit trained before joining the push up the Italian Boot to fight in the Battle of Rome-Arno; when Rome was liberated, Combat Engineers continued the fight into Northern Italy; and

WHEREAS, after the war in Europe ended, Morris Collura returned to Corsica to join the war effort in the Pacific; Morris was on a ship convoy to the Pacific that was about to enter the Panama Canal when news broke that World War II had ended; as the convoy turned about, bound for the United States, Mr. Collura called it the happiest day of his life; and

WHEREAS, Morris was honorably discharged from his military rank as a private, Company B, 643D Engineer (Combat) Battalion, on November 6, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Collura returned to his home in Lake Charles and worked as an undercover agent on nationwide passenger buses; he rode highways across the United States before the time of interstate highways; Morris worked at Cities Service Refinery and I L Lyons Drug Wholesale Warehouse in Lake Charles until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Morris owned and operated a home nursery until Hurricane Laura blew away his business in August of 2020; he was ninety-eight years old at the time; for more than sixty years, Mr. Collura has lived in the same home in Lake Charles; and

WHEREAS, upon the rare human achievement of attaining one hundred years of life, it is fitting to congratulate Morris A. Collura and to acknowledge his military service to his country.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Morris A. Collura upon the occasion of his one hundredth birthday and does hereby thank him for service to his country and his many contributions to his community of Lake Charles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Morris A. Collura.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES