

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

BY SENATOR CROWE AND REPRESENTATIVE CROMER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To congratulate Willard and Inez LeBlanc Hunt upon the occasion of their seventieth wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, late in 1944, with the nation in the grip of World War II and most young men and many young women actively engaged in the effort to win the war in both Europe and the Pacific, Willard Hunt was granted leave from his service overseas; and

WHEREAS, in Port Arthur, Texas, this young airman and instrument technician walked into a birthday party and saw a classmate from high school whom he had not seen for four years; and

WHEREAS, Inez LeBlanc was attending that party and, when she and Willard saw each other that night, they began a beautiful romance that has endured for more than seventy years; and

WHEREAS, only six weeks after the birthday party, the young couple were married at their minister's home with a few guests in attendance, and Inez remembers that her mother brought the flowers for her to carry during the ceremony; and

WHEREAS, after the ceremony, the newlyweds, considering that the country was at war, decided to forego a wedding dinner or reception and, instead, they went out to a local restaurant for a hamburger; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, relieved that Willard was not being sent back overseas, began their marriage adventure with a trip in their Model A Ford to Willard's new air corps assignment at Muroc Air Base, now Edwards Air Force Base, in the California desert; and

WHEREAS, the trek from Port Arthur to near Lancaster, California, took seven days at the steady pace of thirty-five miles per hour and the couple stayed in motor courts along the way, including the last part of their trip along the now historic Route 66; and

WHEREAS, once they arrived at the base, Willard reported for duty and the couple moved into a small apartment above a store on Route 66 about five miles from the base; and

WHEREAS, the theme of a rustic life continued for the Hunts as their apartment had an outdoor latrine and the hot water heater had to be lit each time someone wanted a hot shower; and

WHEREAS, the couple managed to take the living conditions in stride and, in the face of the rationing of many foodstuffs in order to support the war effort, the Hunts were ingenious in solving their shortages, particularly the limited amount of meat available; and

WHEREAS, Willard soon learned that his lovely bride was a crack shot with a twenty-two caliber rifle and the couple would drive out to the uninhabited desert areas and Inez would shoot rabbits, quail, and doves for their meals; and

WHEREAS, the Hunts had a good laugh years later when they learned that their "hunting grounds" were actually a game reserve; and

WHEREAS, Willard Hunt remained in the Air Force, as the Army Air Corps was eventually renamed, for twenty years before retiring and Inez worked at the post office until their daughters were born; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the military, Mr. Hunt worked for several companies involved in technology development and his work took the family throughout the United States and to England; and

WHEREAS, the Hunts are the very proud parents of three daughters: Sherry Robertson, Susan Daniel, and Kay Hunt, and enjoy the company of their seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Hunts, with their pride in the scholarly achievements of their children and grandchildren obvious, mention that all of their daughters and all of their grandchildren went to college; and

WHEREAS, in celebration of their seventieth anniversary, the Hunt's daughters hosted a dinner party with family and friends from church and computer club, and these many friends shared an evening filled with the telling of many stories and much laughter; and

WHEREAS, when queried about the secret to their successful marriage, Inez replied

that the couple never walked out on an argument or stayed mad at each other, but instead worked through all their disagreements; and

WHEREAS, while a marriage that endures into its eighth decade is a rarity in today's society, the Hunts partially attribute their many years of a rewarding marriage to two decisions they made early in their lives together, which were a general agreement as to how to raise their children and an agreement never to fight about money; and

WHEREAS, surrounded by their loving family and friends at their anniversary celebration, Inez and Willard Hunt shared stories, memories, and laughter, perhaps the true secret to the happiness and longevity of their marriage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby congratulate Willard and Inez LeBlanc Hunt upon the celebration of more than seventy years of marriage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Mr. and Mrs. Willard Hunt.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES