

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 137

BY SENATOR MORRISH

A RESOLUTION

To acknowledge with gratitude and commend Stonewell Serrett for his lifelong dedication and service to the United States Navy and the state of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Stonewell Serrett was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on November 25, 1924, and lived the majority of his childhood in downtown Baton Rouge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Serrett enlisted in the United States Navy in September, 1943, to support the American cause in World War II; and

WHEREAS, he was trained as a construction electrician for the newly formed U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, which is now known as the Navy Seabees; and

WHEREAS, he served as a Seabee in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam Conflict; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Mr. Serrett served in the Pacific Theater in the Mariana, Carolina, and Marshall Islands, where his battalion was often among the first forces on the ground; and

WHEREAS, they labored and fought to erect roads, airfields, and bases enabling other allied forces to stage assaults and forward the military mission of our nation; and

WHEREAS, instead of returning to civilian life after World War II, Mr. Serrett re-enlisted; and

WHEREAS, he was then assigned to rebuild the electrical distribution system of a former Japanese airbase in Atsugi, Japan, which would serve as a staging ground for the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Serrett was deployed to the combat zone to build a temporary airstrip lighting system to allow American aircraft to safely land in Korea; and

WHEREAS, after the Korean Conflict, he served on bases far away from Louisiana, including Bermuda, Morocco, and one of the first NATO bases in Naples, Italy; and

WHEREAS, during the Vietnam Conflict, Mr. Serrett served as the training chief of Seabee Battalion No. 8 and served in Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam, with his battalion until he had a stroke and was airlifted to the United States for medical care; and

WHEREAS, upon recovering from his lengthy illness, he was instrumental in re-commissioning the Seabee base in Gulfport, Mississippi, and served as the training coordinator for the 20th Naval Construction Regiment until he retired, with the rank of Senior Chief, in March, 1968; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the Navy and return to Louisiana, Mr. Serrett served as a prison guard at both the Louisiana State Penitentiary and the Elayn Hunt Correctional Center; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 91, Mr. Serrett still shows his "Can Do!" attitude by living independently, daily performing lawn care, and regularly attending Sunday School and church services at Plains Presbyterian Church and sporting events at Zachary High School and LSU.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby acknowledge with gratitude and commend Stonewell Serrett for his lifelong dedication and service to the United States Navy and the state of Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Stonewell Serrett.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE