HLS 17RS-2567 **ORIGINAL** 

2017 Regular Session

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY REPRESENTATIVES ARMES AND MORENO

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Hershel "Woody" Williams for his achievements and efforts to commemorate military service members

A RESOLUTION

2	To commend Hershel "Woody" Williams for his military achievements and efforts in
3	recognizing and commemorating the service and devotion of our military service
4	members and their families.
5	WHEREAS, Hershel Woodrow "Woody" Williams was born on October 2, 1923,
6	grew up on a diary farm in Quiet Dell, West Virginia, and enlisted in the United States
7	Marine Corps on May 26, 1943; and
8	WHEREAS, Mr. Williams served in the Battle of Iwo Jima with the 21st Marines, 3rd
9	Marine Division where his unyielding determination and extraordinary heroism in the face
10	of ruthless enemy resistence were directly instrumental in neutralizing one of the most
11	fanatically defended Japanese strong points encountered by his regiment; his actions enabled
12	his company to successfully reach its objective; and
13	WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' actions, commitment to his fellow service members, and
14	heroism were recognized on October 5, 1945, when he received the Congressional Medal
15	of Honor from President Truman at the White House; and
16	WHEREAS, Mr. Williams retired after serving twenty years in the Marine Corps and
17	Marine Corps Reserves and worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs for thirty-three
18	years as a veteran representative; and
19	WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' devotion to military duty, service members, veterans, and
19 20	WHEREAS, Mr. Williams' devotion to military duty, service members, veterans, and their families began long before the Battle of Iwo Jima and before he enlisted into the

1	WHEREAS, as World War II began, Mr. Williams came into direct contact with
2	military families in his own community by delivering Western Union telegrams informing
3	Gold Star families of the death of their loved one; and
4	WHEREAS, it was during this time that Mr. Williams observed that consideration
5	and recognition of the families of fallen soldiers was very inadequate; this observation and
6	his personal commitment to veterans and their families throughout the years led Mr.
7	Williams to co-create the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation in 2010; and
8	WHEREAS, the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation is a charitable
9	organization focused on honoring Gold Star families and their fallen heroes by establishing
10	Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments in communities in all fifty states, offering
11	scholarships to Gold Star children, sponsoring outreach events programs, and educating
12	communities about Gold Star families and the sacrifice that these families have endured for
13	our country; and
14	WHEREAS, the activities of the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor
15	Foundation allow Mr. Williams to continue his devotion and commitment to those who serve
16	our country and the Gold Star families who have lost loved ones in combat; and
17	WHEREAS, Mr. Williams continues to be honored for his military achievements and
18	efforts, and his actions have again been recently recognized by our military and one of its
19	highest officers as the secretary of the Navy named Expeditionary Sea Base Ship 4, the
20	USNS Hershel "Woody" Williams mobile base sea vessel, which is expected to enter Navy
21	service in early 2018.
22	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
23	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Hershel "Woody" Williams for his
24	individual sacrifice to our country and his continued efforts to perpetuate the memory of the
25	sacrifice made by those in the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives for our
26	country, our freedom, and our way of life.
27	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
28	to Hershel "Woody" Williams.

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## **DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 146 Original

2017 Regular Session

Armes

Commends Hershel "Woody" Williams for his military achievements and efforts in recognizing and commemorating the service and devotion of our service members and their families.