

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY SENATOR BOUDREAUX

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of Edward Desselle.

WHEREAS, it is with deep regret and profound sorrow that the passing of Edward Desselle on February 4, 2018, at the age of ninety-three, has been learned; and

WHEREAS, Edward Desselle was born on July 27, 1924, in Rosa, Louisiana, the second born of Louis Cornelius Desselle and Rosina Monteilh; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Immaculate Conception School in Lebeau, Louisiana, as a member of the first graduating class in May 1942; and

WHEREAS, his mother died when Edward was five years old, and when his father remarried, he gained a second mother - Yola; and

WHEREAS, he was a farmer at an early age, then began a career as a CC Camp Worker and a Higgins Shipyard employee, and, from June 10, 1942, until August 16, 1946, served his country during World War II in the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Edward and the love of his life, LouWilda Auzenne, were married in 1948, and to this union was born two daughters, Maxine Gradney and Francine Young; and

WHEREAS, Edward Desselle was a carpenter, a successful farmer, a night club owner, a rancher, and a store proprietor, and he and his wife participated in these projects as partners until both retired; and

WHEREAS, his most important contribution was that of caregiver to his siblings and stepmother after the death of his father in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Edward Desselle received a Congressional Gold Medal for service as a Montford Point Marine, which was originally presented by President Barack Obama on June 27, 2012, and formally presented on September 23, 2017; and

WHEREAS, he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather, an admirable uncle, and a true friend; he was kind, generous, youthful, helpful, and dependable; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of St. Ann Catholic Church and the Knights of Peter Claver; and

WHEREAS, Edward Desselle was preceded in death by his wife; his parents; three brothers, Cornelius Desselle, Francis Desselle, and Alexander Desselle; and one sister, Elizabeth Desselle; and

WHEREAS, cherishing his memories are two daughters, Maxine Desselle Gradney (Azenor L.) and Francine Desselle Young; two sisters, Barbara Broussard and Juanita Auzenne; two grandsons, Major Ricardo Young (Michelle) and Edward Felix Young (Ping); and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, upon Edward Desselle's death, the world lost a unique and generous individual who left an indelible mark upon the lives of all those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon people like Edward Desselle.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Edward Desselle and hereby express honor and tribute to his remarkable legacy which will always be remembered and live long in the hearts of the many people whose lives he touched.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Major Ricardo Young.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE