

2018 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR PERRY

COMMENDATIONS. Commends Brigadier General Robert Joseph Leblanc on being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend and congratulate Brigadier General Robert Joseph Leblanc on being awarded
3 the Congressional Gold Medal.

4 WHEREAS, Robert Joseph Leblanc was born in Vermilion Parish on November 6,
5 1921, graduated from Abbeville High School in 1938 lettering in boxing, swimming, and
6 football and being selected as Best All Round Boy in the Senior Class, and graduated from
7 LSU in 1942 majoring in Geology and Mathematics; and

8 WHEREAS, he was called to active duty in 1942 and served as Platoon Leader and
9 Company Commander in the Infantry Basic Training Center at Fort McClellan, Alabama;
10 in 1943, he volunteered for duty with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS); he then served
11 in the 3rd U.S. Army, Headquarters, SO, Special Forces Detachment #11 as a Special
12 Operations liaison officer between Patton's Army and the French Underground; he also
13 served with the VIII and XII Corps as well as with the Fourth Army Division attached to the
14 United States Third Army in France; and in 1944, he was transferred to the China-Burma
15 Theater where he served as a Special Operations Officer with the OSS Detachment,
16 Kunning, China; and

17 WHEREAS, after WWII, Robert Leblanc joined the Louisiana National Guard and
18 organized Company H, 156th Infantry in Abbeville; in 1959, he became Brigade Executive

1 Officer; he was promoted to Colonel in 1960, at which time he became Deputy Brigade
2 Commander of the 39th Infantry Division and in this position he was instrumental in the
3 location of a Battle Group Headquarters which later became Battalion Headquarters in
4 Abbeville and a Brigade Headquarters for Lafayette; and

5 WHEREAS, in 1963, upon reorganization of the Division, he assumed command of
6 the 1st Brigade, 39th Infantry Division; in 1967, he assumed command of Emergency
7 Operations headquarters, Louisiana Army National Guard and was promoted to Brigadier
8 General of the Line; and in 1972, Leblanc was assigned as Director, Emergency Operations
9 and Commanding General, Louisiana Army National Guard Command, New Orleans,
10 Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, upon military discharge, he trained in Dallas at the Southwest Photo
12 Institute and opened Leblanc's Photo Studio in Abbeville; and

13 WHEREAS, also employed as a rural carrier for the United States Post Office,
14 Leblanc was promoted to Postmaster of Abbeville; in 1972, he was promoted to Sectional
15 Center Manager/Postmaster for Lafayette where he supervised ninety-three post offices in
16 Southwest Louisiana and it was through his leadership that he planned the new postal facility
17 on Moss Street; he then documented the need for post offices that became Energy Station
18 in the Oil Center, the Postal Square Station downtown, and the new Ambassador Caffery
19 Station; and while Sectional Center Manager/Postmaster, he swore in more postmasters than
20 any other SCF Manager; and

21 WHEREAS, after Hurricane Audrey, General Leblanc was asked to take over the
22 operations of the Civil Defense Office to restore damaged Vermilion Parish; he was
23 instrumental in the reconstruction of Pecan Island, Forked Island, and the Henry-Boston
24 area; six months later he returned to the post office and remained a Part Time Director of
25 Office of Emergency Preparedness, handling a number of hurricanes and emergencies for
26 the state and Vermilion Parish; and his Parish Emergency Operations Plan and
27 Implementation was used as a model for the state; and

28 WHEREAS, in March 1969, General Leblanc successfully commanded troops of the
29 1st Brigade, 39th Division, LANG, in the Bogalusa Civil Disturbance, by protecting
30 marchers from serious injury; and

1 WHEREAS, General Leblanc has received numerous distinctions and awards for his
2 service, including his induction into the Louisiana National Guard Hall of Fame in 2006; and

3 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, members of the Office of Strategic
4 Services (OSS) will be honored with a Congressional Gold Medal for their historic
5 contributions during World War II and among the recipients is Brigadier General Robert
6 Joseph Leblanc of Abbeville; and .

7 WHEREAS, the Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor the United
8 States Congress can bestow; and

9 WHEREAS, the OSS, America's first strategic intelligence system implemented
10 during World War II, is widely considered the foundation of modern-day intelligence
11 operations and the group organized, trained, supplied, and fought in the war throughout
12 Europe and Asia and played a decisive role in America's victory; and

13 WHEREAS, the success of the state of Louisiana, the strength of our communities
14 and nation, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the
15 dedication of people like Robert Joseph Leblanc who use their considerable talents and
16 resources to serve others; and

17 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Robert Joseph Leblanc merits the highest
18 commendation and sincere congratulations for his exemplary service and for his outstanding
19 contributions to Vermilion Parish, the state of Louisiana, and the United States of America.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
21 does hereby commend and congratulate Brigadier General Robert Joseph Leblanc on the
22 occasion of being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal; does hereby recognize and record
23 for posterity the vital contributions of General Leblanc in his tireless dedication to
24 excellence and service to the citizens of Vermilion Parish, the state of Louisiana, and the
25 nation; and does extend to General Leblanc every good wish for success and happiness in
26 all of his future endeavors.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
28 Brigadier General Robert Joseph Leblanc.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot.

SR 34 Original	DIGEST 2018 Regular Session	Perry
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