

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 167

BY REPRESENTATIVES GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, AND MARINO

COMMENDATIONS: Commends posthumously Sergeant John Ray of Gretna, Louisiana

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend posthumously the unselfish heroism of Sergeant John P. Ray, Jr., during his
3 service in the U.S. Army during World War II.

4 WHEREAS, John Ray was born on August 15, 1922, in Gretna, Louisiana and
5 attended Gretna Elementary School and Gretna High School; he played football for the high
6 school team; and

7 WHEREAS, on January 9, 1941, at the age of eighteen, John Ray enlisted to serve
8 in the military, and once the U.S. entered World War II, John Ray was quickly promoted to
9 the rank of corporal and then sergeant; he proudly served in Company F, 505th Parachute
10 Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division; and

11 WHEREAS, he met the woman he would marry, Paula Freeman, in Gretna, and the
12 two were married on March 7, 1943, in Cut Off, Louisiana; and

13 WHEREAS, a week after their wedding, John shipped out back to his parachute
14 infantry unit in Africa; and

15 WHEREAS, Sergeant John Ray served in World War II with great distinction,
16 participating in the invasions of Africa and Italy; and

17 WHEREAS, on June 6, 1944, Sergeant John Ray was killed in action on D-Day in
18 Saint Mère Église, France; Sergeant John Ray performed his military duties in an
19 outstanding fashion and at great personal sacrifice, exhibiting courage and gallantry in the
20 face of utmost danger; and

1 WHEREAS, the account of Sergeant John Ray's unselfish heroism is well
2 documented in the books *D-Day: June 6, 1944: The Climatic Battle of World War II* by
3 Stephen Ambrose and *Twenty-Five Yards of War: The Extraordinary Courage of Ordinary*
4 *Men in World War II* by Ronald J. Drez; and

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant John Ray proudly and devoutly served his country; his
6 heroism and sacrifice, although hidden in shadows of time, deserve universal recognition and
7 unflagging gratitude; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant John Ray merits a sincere measure of posthumous
9 commendation for his achievements and contributions as a sergeant in the United States
10 Army and an exceptional son, brother, husband, and citizen.

11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
12 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its sincerest gratitude to Sergeant John Ray
13 and commends him for his great service to America and his unselfish military heroism and
14 does hereby recognize and extend sincere appreciation to Sergeant John Ray's widow, Paula
15 F. Guidry of Lockport, Louisiana and other members of his family.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
17 to the family of Sergeant John Ray.

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 167 Original

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Garofalo

Commends posthumously Sergeant John Ray of Gretna, Louisiana, for his heroism and bravery while serving the U.S. in World War II.