

BY REPRESENTATIVE DEVILLIER

1 A RESOLUTION

3 WHEREAS, Joseph William Richard was born in Church Point, Louisiana, to Pierre
4 and Ada Venable Richard; at the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the United States Navy and
5 served from 1941 until 1954; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Richard served at Pearl Harbor, Okinawa, and the Pacific Theatre;
7 on December 7, 1941, he was assigned as a shipfitter on the USS Rigel, which was docked
8 at Pearl Harbor for repairs and had no guns or ammunition on board; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Richard had just finished breakfast on the morning of December 7,
10 1941, when he recognized the red sun emblem on the sides of low-flying planes heading
11 towards Pearl Harbor; and

12 WHEREAS, directly after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Richard participated in
13 the rescue of American sailors who were trapped on the USS Arizona and USS Oklahoma;
14 he helped cut thirty-three sailors out of the USS Arizona and, later, helped rescue another
15 three sailors from the nearby USS Oklahoma; and

16 WHEREAS, fifty years after the attack, Mr. Richard attended a convention hosted
17 by the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and met Bob Sullivan, who was one of the men
18 that he helped rescue; and

19 WHEREAS, during his thirteen years of military service to our country, Mr. Richard
20 was awarded with the WWII Victory Medal, American Defense Medal with a Bronze Star,
21 American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars,

1 Philippine Liberation Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Korean Service Medal, Navy
2 Occupation Medal, Korean War Service Medal, and Honorable Discharge patch for his
3 valiant service; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Richard is a true hero who helped save the lives of many Americans
5 following the attacks on Pearl Harbor; he is most deserving of the highest recognition for his
6 valiant service to our country.

7 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
8 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Pearl Harbor survivor Joe Richard for his
9 service in the United States Navy and does hereby recognize Mr. Richard as an American
10 hero.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Joe
12 Richard.

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 24 Original

2021 Regular Session

DeVillier

Commends Pearl Harbor survivor Joe Richard for his military service.