

2021 Regular Session

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, CATHEY, MILLIGAN, ROBERT MILLS AND TARVER

COMMENDATIONS. Commends World War II veteran Claude Gulley on the occasion of his one-hundredth birthday.

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend World War II veteran Claude Gulley on the occasion of his one-hundredth
3 birthday.

4 WHEREAS, Claude Gulley was born in the community of Summerfield in Claiborne
5 Parish on May 21, 1921, to his parents Jewel and Sammy Gulley; and

6 WHEREAS, soon after Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, Mr. Gulley
7 volunteered to serve his country in the United States Army; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Gulley spent three and one-half years deployed to the Pacific
9 Theater; and

10 WHEREAS, after undergoing intensive jungle and amphibious warfare training
11 under the direction of Louisiana's own Major General "Lightning Joe" Collins, Mr. Gulley
12 and his 27th Infantry Regiment, or the "Wolfhounds" as they were known as part of the 25th
13 Infantry Division, set sail for Guadalcanal in the Solomon Island chain, as part of the first
14 major land offensive by Allied forces against the Empire of Japan; and

15 WHEREAS, in less than a month and against a determined enemy who offered fierce
16 resistance, the 25th Division wiped out the Japanese who were dug in on Mount Austin and
17 subsequently conducted an envelopment through the jungle to cut off retreating Japanese
18 forces, earning the Division's nickname "Tropic Lighting" along the way; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Gulley and Tropic Lightning continued their conquest of the
2 Solomon Islands, taking part in the decisive battle on the island of New Georgia for the
3 Japanese airfield at Munda Point; and

4 WHEREAS, with New Georgia secure, Mr. Gulley and the rest of Tropic Lightning
5 earned well-deserved "R and R" in New Zealand and later New Caledonia, while training
6 for the invasion of the Philippines; and

7 WHEREAS, in early 1945, Mr. Gulley and Tropic Lightning stormed the large
8 Philippine island of Luzon, as Luzon was essential to General Douglas MacArthur's plan for
9 the ground invasion of the Japanese mainland; and

10 WHEREAS, in some of the fiercest fighting of the Pacific Theater, Mr. Gulley and
11 Tropic Lightning fought their way through the Japanese defenses on one hill after the other
12 with the key, Balete Pass falling to the Division on May 13, 1945; and

13 WHEREAS, Tropic Lightning had suffered the most casualties of any division of the
14 Sixth Army in its record establishing one hundred sixty-five days of continuous combat; and

15 WHEREAS, thankfully the ground invasion of the Japanese mainland never took
16 place and Mr. Gulley was honorably discharged from the Army in August 1945 after three
17 and one half years of exemplary service in the Pacific Theater; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Gulley earned multiple Bronze Stars for "heroic service,
19 meritorious achievement, or service in a combat zone" and the final rank as First Sergeant;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, shortly after V-J Day, on a visit to Bob Hope's night club in Palm
22 Springs, California, Mr. Gulley met the love of his life, Annabelle Morris; and

23 WHEREAS, after a three week courtship, the couple was married on April 6, 1946;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, their two children, Michael and Claudia, were born in California prior
26 to the Gulleys move to Louisiana in the early 1950s; and

27 WHEREAS, after settling in Shreveport, Mr. Gulley established the very successful
28 C. Gulley Truck Service, Inc. - Shreveport, which transported auto parts for General Motors,
29 performed contract work for the United States Postal Service, and provided for over forty
30 employees prior to selling the business in 1992; and

1 WHEREAS, even after selling his business, Mr. Gulley has remained active, tending
2 to over one hundred head of cattle on his ranch in East Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Gulley recently celebrated their seventy-fifth wedding
4 anniversary; and

5 WHEREAS, as part of the Greatest Generation, Mr. Gulley did his part to make the
6 world safe for democracy; as an entrepreneur he helped create the great American middle
7 class; and as a loving husband, father, and grandfather - his greatest accomplishments - his
8 family are pillars of their communities.

9 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
10 does hereby commend and congratulate Mr. Claude Gulley on the occasion of his
11 one-hundredth birthday, recognize a life well-lived, and thank him for his service to our
12 country.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to
14 Mr. Claude Gulley.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Alan Miller.

DIGEST

SR 115 Original 2021 Regular Session Peacock

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birthday.