

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

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

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in early 1945, Mr. Gulley and Tropic Lightning stormed the large Philippine island of Luzon, as Luzon was essential to General Douglas MacArthur's plan for

the ground invasion of the Japanese mainland; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE