

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 168

BY SENATOR CONNICK

A RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate Captain Lena Buettner Kaman on her distinguished military accomplishments and her demonstrated and exceptional dedication and service to the United States Navy and her country.

WHEREAS, Captain Lena Kaman is a native of Shawano, Wisconsin, and daughter of a Navy veteran of Korea and Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Captain Kaman's illustrious career of military service began when she joined the Reserve Officer's Training Corps at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in French in 2000; and

WHEREAS, following graduation, in March 2002, she was designated as a Naval Aviator and reported to HSL-40 in Mayport, Florida, for SH-60B Seahawk training; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, Captain Kaman served with distinction onboard the USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) on a MED/MEF cruise and later on the USS Thomas S. Gates (CG 51) from June through September 2005 in support of UNITAS and PANAMEX; and

WHEREAS, after successfully completing her first fleet tour, Captain Kaman's Naval contributions continued in the training arena, serving as an instructor pilot in the TH-57 at HT-18, NAS Whiting Field, Florida, where she was awarded the Pensacola Lions Club HT-18 Instructor of the Year for 2007; and

WHEREAS, Captain Kaman's accomplished military pursuits were further exemplified during her tenure as Training Air Wing Five's TH-57 Standardization Officer and as a member of America's Squadron, HT-8, where she was awarded the Association of the United States Navy Full-Time Support Officer of the Year for all Chief of Naval Air

Training squadrons for 2010; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her bachelor's degree, her academic achievements include a master's degree in aeronautical science in 2011, from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a master's degree in national security and strategic studies in 2017, from the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Captain Kaman joined the staff of the Chief of Naval Personnel in Washington, D.C. where she honorably served as the head enlisted advancement planner, and later served as the flag aide for the Chief of Navy Reserve; and

WHEREAS, in April 2018, she joined the HT-8 Eightballer team, serving first as the executive officer and then as the commanding officer until September 2020, and, impressively, under her leadership the squadron earned the CNATRA Training Excellence Award for advanced helicopter training; and

WHEREAS, Captain Kaman's commitment to service extended beyond her operational training roles as she served as the Legislative Fellow in the United States House of Representatives in 2021, and then on the Chief of Navy Reserve in the legislative affairs directorate until June 2022; and

WHEREAS, in August 2022, Captain Kaman assumed her current role of Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, during her career, Captain Kaman has flown more than four thousand two hundred hours in naval aircraft and has received numerous awards, including the Air Medal for flying over one hundred combat hours in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Naval Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and various other service and campaign ribbons; and

WHEREAS, beyond her professional endeavors, Captain Kaman's dedication to her family is evident, balancing her military responsibilities with the joys of motherhood alongside her husband Christian and their twin sons, Jean-Paul and Theodore; and

WHEREAS, Captain Lena Buettner Kaman merits the highest commendation for her exemplary and outstanding contributions and dedication to the United States Navy, the United States, and the state of Louisiana, whose citizens reap and will long benefit from her dedication, service, and leadership.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend and congratulate Captain Lena Buettner Kaman on her distinguished military accomplishments and her demonstrated and exceptional dedication and service to the United States Navy and her country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Captain Lena Buettner Kaman.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE