

2016 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

BY REPRESENTATIVE LANCE HARRIS

A RESOLUTION

To commend Obdulia Teodosia Rios Hayes for her service to the American Red Cross.

WHEREAS, Obdulia Teodosia "Teddy" Rios Hayes was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1922, and after high school graduation and several jobs, joined the United Service Organizations (USO) in 1947; and

WHEREAS, Teddy's first post in the USO was in Panama, where she was stationed for two years and then returned to her island home of Puerto Rico; after the USO closed its San Juan office, Teddy was offered a job by the Red Cross, and she worked to rehabilitate soldiers through the Service in Military Hospitals program; and

WHEREAS, most of the staff of Service in Military Hospitals spoke Spanish and most of the soldiers spoke mostly English, so Teddy's bilingual skills allowed her to live the motto of the Red Cross: "the need is real; the time is now"; and

WHEREAS, James "Jim" Anderson Hayes, an Army corporal, was assigned to Rodriguez General Hospital to teach soldiers new skills as part of their rehabilitation; he was captivated by the beautiful Caribbean Red Cross worker who also was helping soldiers to heal through therapeutic activities, and once their paths crossed, romance led to a fruitful and lasting marriage that began in San Juan on January 15, 1949; and

WHEREAS, after Jim's discharge from the Army, the newlyweds traveled to Louisiana and settled in Pineville where they started Hayes Manufacturing Company in 1954; Teddy's business acumen and Jim's ingenuity laid a foundation for success that has been passed to their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Teddy Hayes' fiery spirit and knack for getting the job done has left a legacy of competent care and concern that is a testament to the esprit de corps of the American Red Cross, and it is appropriate to recognize the valuable and noteworthy contributions of Obdulia Teodosia "Teddy" Rios Hayes to the organization.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Obdulia Teodosia "Teddy" Rios Hayes for her exemplary and dedicated service to the American Red Cross; does hereby pay tribute to the years she spent helping to heal members of the U.S. military in the aftermath of war; and does hereby express best hopes and wishes for continued happiness and good health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Obdulia Teodosia Rios Hayes.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES