HLS 201ES-299 ORIGINAL

2020 First Extraordinary Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 39

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BY REPRESENTATIVES STEFANSKI AND DEVILLIER

CONDOLENCES: Expresses condolences on the death of William Leo Spaetgens

A RESOLUTION

2	To express the condolences of the House of Representatives upon the death, on June 1,
3	2020, of William Leo Spaetgens.
4	WHEREAS, Leo Spaetgens served in the United States Navy during World War II,
5	joining after the attack on Pearl Harbor; he fought during the Battle of Okinawa and the
6	Allied invasion of Sicily; and
7	WHEREAS, Mr. Spaetgens's first posting was as a gunner aboard the SS Leslie M.
8	Shaw, a merchant ship that ferried infantry troops to battle sites during the invasion of
9	Sicily; and
0	WHEREAS, Mr. Spaetgens was later reassigned to a fuel tanker, the USS Fort
1	McHenry, on which he made several runs from the refineries on the Caribbean Island of
12	Curação, through the Panama Canal, to various islands in the Pacific Ocean; and
13	WHEREAS, after this stint, Mr. Spaetgens was assigned to the USS Leon troop
4	carrier vessel, which was headed for Okinawa, Japan; after an intense battle with the
15	Japanese soldiers on Okinawa, Mr. Spaetgens was given his final official duty, transporting
16	American soldiers to the United States for discharge; and
17	WHEREAS, during his time with the Navy, Leo Spaetgens received five campaign
18	medals, a unit commendation, and three battle stars; and

1 WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Spaetgens joined the Merchant Marines and later 2 worked at the Columbia Gulf Transmission Company plant between Rayne and Branch, 3 Louisiana; during the late 1980s, he served on the Acadia Parish School Board; he was also 4 a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 77 of Rayne and the VFW Post 6720 of 5 Crowley; in 2017, he was honored as Acadia Parish's oldest surviving veteran, and he was 6 presented with the Quilt of Valor, which stands for service, sacrifice, and valor in serving 7 our nation; and 8 WHEREAS, Mr. Spaetgens was also very involved in his faith community; he was 9 a member of the Holy Name Society at St. Leo IV Catholic Church in Roberts Cove, 10 Louisiana, and he served as the society's president for twelve years; he was also the VFW 11 Chaplain for the 7th District of Louisiana and said the final prayer at more than five hundred 12 military funerals; and 13 WHEREAS, Leo Spaetgens is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Ruby Faulk 14 Spaetgens; sons, Michael John Spaetgens, and his wife Charlotte, and Jackie Paul Spaetgens, 15 and his wife Renee; his sister, Anna Maria Spaetgens; twelve grandchildren; and twenty-two 16 great-grandchildren; and 17 WHEREAS, William Leo Spaetgens was a truly patriotic American and a man of 18 great faith; he will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. 19 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 20 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express condolences upon the death of William Leo 21 Spaetgens; does hereby record Mr. Spaetgens's incredible service to our country; and does 22 hereby extend sincere hopes and wishes that his family find peace and comfort during this 23 somber time. 24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the

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family of Mr. William Leo Spaetgens.

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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 39 Original

2020 First Extraordinary Session

Stefanski

Expresses condolences upon the death of William Leo Spaetgens.