

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, a bridge is being constructed over the Mississippi River which is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2011 joining West Feliciana Parish and Pointe Coupee Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Legislature previously named this bridge the “John James Audubon Bridge” pursuant to SB68/Act No. 483 of the 1993 Regular Session; and

**WHEREAS**, Louisiana is proud of commemorating Louisiana servicemembers and veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, John James Audubon was not born in the United States of America, and it would be more fitting and patriotic to name the bridge after Louisiana veterans who risked their lives to provide us with the freedoms we enjoy today; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert H. Barrow (1922-2008) was raised on Rosale Plantation in West Feliciana Parish, attended Louisiana State University, and joined the United States Marine Corps during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, General Robert H. Barrow rose through the ranks to become the 27<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps, which is the highest ranking officer in the Marine Corps; and

**WHEREAS**, General Robert H. Barrow was the first Commandant to decline being buried in Arlington National Cemetery, and instead chose as his final resting place the idyllic cemetery at Grace Episcopal Church in St. Francisville; and

**WHEREAS**, across the Mississippi River, John A. Lejeune (1867-1942) grew up on Old Hickory Plantation in Pointe Coupee Parish, attended Louisiana State University, and joined the Marine Corps later becoming the 13<sup>th</sup> Commandant of the Marine Corps; and

**WHEREAS**, General John A. Lejeune is considered by many to be the “Greatest of all Leathernecks,” and Camp Lejeune in North Carolina is named in his honor; and

**WHEREAS**, West Feliciana Parish and Pointe Coupee Parish share a common bond in that these two parishes both produced Commandants of the Marine Corps, the only parishes in Louisiana that can boast such an accomplishment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana Veterans Coalition urges the Louisiana Legislature to reconsider and re-name said bridge the “Lejeune-Barrow Bridge” recognizing exemplary Military heritage and honoring the two great generals who called Louisiana home.

**ADOPTED**, this 26th day of February, 2011, by vote of all members present.

Louis T Dechert  
Chairman, Louisiana Veterans Coalition