

By: Wilson

H.R. No. 1716

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The observance of World War II Veterans Capitol Day
2 on May 11, 2023, provides an opportunity to honor brave members of
3 the Greatest Generation for their selfless service; and

4 WHEREAS, On December 7, 1941, the United States was drawn
5 into the most devastating and consequential conflict in human
6 history; then-Texas Governor Coke R. Stevenson predicted that
7 Texans would rise proudly to the challenge of defending their
8 country, and he was proved correct by the long lines of volunteers
9 waiting eagerly to enlist at recruiting centers around the state;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Although Texas in that era had but five percent of
12 the nation's population, the state provided seven percent of armed
13 forces personnel; by the end of the war, 750,000 Texans, including
14 12,000 women, had contributed to victory over enemy forces; the
15 majority of these service members were in the U.S. Army and the Army
16 Air Force, but nearly a quarter served in other branches; over
17 22,000 Texans made the ultimate sacrifice, a third of this number in
18 the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps., or Coast Guard; Texas A&M University
19 alone produced more officers than both of the extant military
20 academies together; and

21 WHEREAS, Individual Texans fought with great valor in all the
22 theaters of the war, and 33 were awarded the Medal of Honor; one
23 such honoree, Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy of Farmersville, was the
24 most highly decorated American of the Second World War; another

1 honoree, Private First Class Silvestre S. Herrera of El Paso, was
2 injured in a fight that led to the capture of eight enemy soldiers;
3 more than 150 generals and 12 admirals were either natives or
4 residents of Texas, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General
5 Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Denison native who was stationed at Fort Sam
6 Houston when the war began; Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, appointed
7 Commander in Chief, US Pacific Fleet and Commander in Chief,
8 Pacific Ocean Areas following the attack on Pearl Harbor, was born
9 in Fredericksburg and descended from a pioneer Texas German family;
10 other Texans who served with particular distinction include Women's
11 Army Corp. Colonel Oveta Culp Hobby, who also served as a
12 parliamentarian in this chamber, Navy cook Doris "Dorie" Miller of
13 Waco, Marine parachuter Harlan Block, Major General Claire
14 Chennault of Commerce, and Major General James Earl Rudder of Eden,
15 among many others who we honor today; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the National World War II Museum, as of
17 2022, 8,200 World War II veterans were living in Texas, the
18 fifth-highest number of all states in the U.S.; they represent 0.6
19 percent of the state's total veteran population of approximately
20 1,400,000; and

21 WHEREAS, Inspired by a deep sense of patriotism, love for
22 freedom, and opposition to tyranny everywhere, the veterans of
23 World War II answered their nation's call to duty, and it is indeed
24 fitting to express our enduring respect and admiration for their
25 courage and immeasurable fortitude; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
27 Legislature hereby recognize May 11, 2023, as World War II Veterans

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1 Capitol Day and encourage all residents of the Lone Star State to
2 learn more about the incomparable contributions of the Greatest
3 Generation.