

By: Dunnam

H.R. No. 158

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the 143rd Infantry Regiment, one of the
2 first American units to land in Europe during World War II, are
3 celebrating the 60th anniversary of that historic event; and

4 WHEREAS, The 143rd was mobilized on November 25, 1940, as
5 part of the 36th Infantry Division; after training at Camp Bowie in
6 Brownwood, and later at Camp Blandings in Florida and Fort Edwards
7 in Massachusetts, the regiment shipped out for North Africa in
8 April 1943; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 9, 1943, the 143rd took part in the
10 first American invasion of mainland Europe, going ashore at the
11 town of Paestum, near Salerno, Italy; resistance was intense, and
12 the casualties the unit sustained there rank as some of the heaviest
13 in its history; the following December the regiment succeeded in
14 capturing San Pietro, thus breaking the Winter Line, and on June 4,
15 1944, the troops of the 143rd became the first Allied force to reach
16 Rome; and

17 WHEREAS, Following campaigns in Italy, the regiment
18 participated in the invasion of southern France and fought its way
19 into Germany, where, in its last major battle, it breached the
20 Siegfried Line and reached the Rhine; over the course of its service
21 in World War II, the 143rd spent 386 days in combat, suffered 9,000
22 casualties, and captured 75,000 German soldiers; it earned five
23 Presidential Unit Citations, and five members were awarded the
24 Medal of Honor; and

1 WHEREAS, This distinguished regiment, descended from Texas
2 units formed in the 19th century and composed primarily of Central
3 Texans throughout its history, was officially organized October 15,
4 1917, and first saw action in Europe in World War I; part of the
5 Texas National Guard during peacetime, it has assisted civilian
6 authorities in responding to such large-scale disasters as the New
7 London school explosion of 1937 and the Waco tornado of 1953; in
8 1968, with the retirement of the 36th Infantry Division, the
9 regiment was reorganized as an airborne unit; and

10 WHEREAS, Citizens of the United States owe an immeasurable
11 debt to the members of the 143rd Infantry Regiment, whose valiant
12 efforts and great sacrifice helped to secure the Allied victory in
13 World War II, and whose readiness to serve in time of peace as well
14 as war has also contributed to the security of the nation; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
17 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby honor members of the 143rd
18 Infantry Regiment on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of their
19 landing in Europe and extend to them profound gratitude for their
20 heroic and selfless actions in this nation's behalf; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for members of the 143rd Infantry Regiment as an
24 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.