

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 187

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Recognizing February 19, 2003, as Gunnery Sergeant  
2 John Basilone Day pays tribute to a brave and distinguished United  
3 States marine who sacrificed his life so Americans may live in  
4 freedom; and

5           WHEREAS, On October 24 and 25, 1942, Sergeant Basilone served  
6 in the Lunga area on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, as a member of  
7 the 7th U.S. Marine Regiment in the First Battalion of the First  
8 Division; and

9           WHEREAS, Assigned to defend Henderson Air Field, he  
10 demonstrated uncommon courage, racing through enemy lines to  
11 retrieve 100-pound sacks of ammunition to resupply his men; then,  
12 separated from his fellow soldiers and armed only with his machine  
13 gun, he located and destroyed an entire regiment of enemy forces,  
14 hastening the victory; and

15           WHEREAS, Sergeant Basilone returned home to a hero's welcome  
16 and became the first enlisted marine to receive the Congressional  
17 Medal of Honor; he also attended a 10-state war bond tour with  
18 numerous celebrities; and

19           WHEREAS, Eager to continue serving, Sergeant Basilone joined  
20 the newly formed Fifth Marine Division, and on February 19, 1945, he  
21 and his fellow marines landed on the island of Iwo Jima; again he  
22 showed extraordinary bravery, rescuing a tank from a minefield and  
23 then destroying an enemy blockhouse with a dynamite charge; while  
24 advancing to secure the Montoyama Airfield #1, Gunnery Sergeant

1 John Basilone was tragically killed by mortar fire; and

2 WHEREAS, Sergeant Basilone posthumously received the Navy  
3 Cross, and his hometown of Raritan, New Jersey, has honored him  
4 since the 1980s with an annual parade; furthermore, a 17-mile  
5 stretch of Interstate 5 outside of Camp Pendleton in California has  
6 been renamed the John Basilone Memorial Highway, and efforts are  
7 being made to issue a postage stamp in his honor; and

8 WHEREAS, Sergeant Basilone was a marine whose strong sense of  
9 duty reflected a deep commitment to his country and his fellow  
10 citizens, for whom he willingly entered dangerous combat, performed  
11 courageous feats, and ultimately gave his life; now, therefore, be  
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2003, as Gunnery Sergeant  
15 John Basilone Day to honor this remarkable American and valorous  
16 U.S. marine.