

By: Talton

H.R. No. 185

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 60th anniversary of the raising of the U.S. flag
2 on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima on February 23,
3 1945, affords a fitting opportunity to recognize the important role
4 of the Battleship *Texas* in our nation's history; and

5 WHEREAS, The Battleship *Texas* lent gunfire support and
6 antiaircraft fire to the landing on Iwo Jima, an essential base of
7 U.S. operations toward the end of World War II; commissioned in
8 1914, the ship participated in campaigns in the Atlantic Ocean, off
9 the North African Coast and Cherbourg, and in the Pacific Ocean, at
10 Iwo Jima and Okinawa, before becoming the flagship of the Texas Navy
11 in 1948; and

12 WHEREAS, A ship of many "firsts," the Battleship *Texas* was
13 the first ship to launch an airplane, the first to mount
14 antiaircraft guns, the first to control gunfire with directors and
15 range-keepers, and the first to use commercial radar; furthermore,
16 the ship was nicknamed the Lucky Ship for its low incidence of
17 combat casualties; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1983, the Battleship *Texas* was placed in the care
19 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and today the ship finds
20 her permanent home on the Buffalo Bayou at the historic site of the
21 San Jacinto Battleground, near downtown Houston; the Battleship
22 *Texas* Foundation, a nonprofit corporation led by business, civic,
23 and retired military leaders and community volunteers, raises funds
24 to restore the ship to its original glory and promote its

1 educational value and historical significance; and

2 WHEREAS, Built as a vessel of war, the Battleship *Texas* now
3 symbolizes our commitment to freedom, and it is a source of great
4 pride for all Texans; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
6 Legislature hereby recognize the 60th anniversary of the raising of
7 the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima, and commend the Battleship *Texas*
8 Foundation for its preservation of our nation's history and its
9 care and restoration of the Battleship *Texas*; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for the
11 members of the Battleship *Texas* Foundation as an expression of high
12 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.