

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 539

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to honor the courageous men who kept themselves and their ideals of freedom alive in the Philippines and survived the infamous Bataan Death March; and

WHEREAS, Three days after the Japanese attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in Luzon; the American and Filipino forces, with dwindling supplies and a lack of reinforcements, were overwhelmed by the intense assault by the Japanese, and many American and Filipino soldiers became prisoners of war; and

WHEREAS, After the surrender of Bataan, soldiers who were captured were forced to begin the Bataan Death March on April 10, 1942; they marched 55 miles to San Fernando in 140-degree temperature without food or water, and soldiers who later surrendered on Corregidor suffered a similar fate when they were transferred to Bataan; and

WHEREAS, Of the 76,000 prisoners who began the forced march, only 56,000 reached the prison camp alive, and many would later die from malnutrition and disease; some of the survivors of the death march were packed into the holds of cargo ships and sent to work as slave laborers in Japanese industries in Manchuria; and

WHEREAS, In total, 37 percent of all Pacific Theater prisoners of war died; the men who were able to survive the torturous Bataan Death March demonstrated exceptional strength and tenacity, and they have the admiration and respect of their entire nation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the courageous soldiers who overcame overwhelming odds and survived the Bataan Death March; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of high esteem from the Texas Senate.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 6, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate