

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 263

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is proud and honored to pay tribute to the Texas veterans who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima during the Pacific campaign of World War II; and

WHEREAS, One of the decisive battles in the Pacific theater during World War II, the Battle of Iwo Jima is famous for the image of United States troops raising the American flag atop Mount Suribachi; and

WHEREAS, The capture of Iwo Jima was considered necessary to the United States, as the island would provide a staging area for the invasion of the Japanese homeland; its location made it an ideal place for an airbase for the upcoming strategic bombing campaign against the Japanese home islands; and

WHEREAS, American intelligence sources were confident that Iwo Jima would fall in only a few days, but Japanese forces had prepared an incredibly strong defensive position and had reinforced the island with over 20,000 troops; and

WHEREAS, The Battle of Iwo Jima began February 19, 1945, and lasted approximately 35 days; some of the fiercest fighting in the Pacific campaign took place at Iwo Jima, and more than a quarter of the Medals of Honor awarded to United States Marines in World War II were given for conduct in the Battle of Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, Those who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima demonstrated uncommon valor, and their actions brought honor to themselves, their families, their communities, and their nation; they answered their country's call in its hour of need and willingly risked their lives on behalf of their country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby honor the brave marines, sailors, and soldiers from Texas who fell at Iwo Jima and pay tribute to the surviving Texas veterans who participated in that pivotal battle in our nation's history; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of the courage and dedication of these veterans.

Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate