

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Jimmie Doyle of Lamesa, a courageous
2 Texan who gave his life in defense of his country during World War
3 II, was finally laid to rest in his home state on April 25, 2009,
4 more than 64 years after he was killed in action; and

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant Doyle was an aerial gunner with the 424th
6 Squadron of the 307th Heavy Bombardment Group of the United States
7 Army Air Forces and completed numerous combat missions in the
8 Pacific theater; on September 1, 1944, the B-24 bomber on which he
9 was a crewmember was hit by antiaircraft fire while on a bombing run
10 over Koror in the Palau Islands; he and seven of his fellow aviators
11 died when the plane crashed into the ocean; three others parachuted
12 from the plane but perished in captivity after being captured by the
13 Japanese; and

14 WHEREAS, Though he died at age 25, Jimmie Doyle had
15 experienced much in his life; he was born on October 29, 1918, in
16 McKinney, the son of Tom and Mamie Doyle, and later moved to
17 Sweetwater; at age 17, in the midst of the Great Depression, he
18 joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and was sent to work in
19 Lamesa; there, he met Myrle Dean Wells, and the two were wed on
20 September 21, 1940; the couple welcomed the arrival of their son,
21 Tommy, in December of 1942, with Mr. Doyle supporting the family by
22 working as a stonemason in the area; in August of 1943, with his
23 country at war, he joined the armed forces; the following spring, he
24 received his orders to depart for combat duty in the Pacific; and

1 WHEREAS, The wreckage of Sergeant Doyle's plane went
2 unrecovered for decades; then, in the early 2000s, the remnants of
3 the submerged aircraft were located through the efforts of the Bent
4 Prop Project, a volunteer organization dedicated to returning the
5 remains of American service members who were lost during the air
6 battles over Palau; Bent Prop's discovery prompted the Joint
7 POW/MIA Account Command to conduct underwater recovery operations,
8 which ultimately resulted in the repatriation of Sergeant Doyle's
9 body; and

10 WHEREAS, Two descendants of the fallen airman have had a
11 personal connection to the recovery; Tommy Doyle, Jimmie's son, had
12 the opportunity to travel to Palau and participate in dive
13 operations on the submerged aircraft; U.S. Marine Captain Casey
14 Doyle, Tommy's son and Jimmie's grandson, officially escorted the
15 remains as they were returned to Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Jimmie Doyle was buried next to his
17 wife, Myrle, at Lamesa Memorial Park with full military honors,
18 including a flyover and a 21-gun salute; this was a fitting tribute
19 to a valiant member of the U.S. armed forces who made the ultimate
20 sacrifice for his country, and the citizens of Texas and the United
21 States owe him an eternal debt of remembrance for his brave service
22 in a time of war; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
24 Legislature hereby honor the life of Staff Sergeant Jimmie Doyle
25 and extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his
26 son, Tommy Doyle, and his wife, Nancy; to his grandchildren, Casey
27 and Brandi Doyle; to his sister, Pat Presfield; and to his other

1 relatives; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sergeant
5 Jimmie Doyle.

Craddick

H.R. No. 1828

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1828 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 14, 2009.

Chief Clerk of the House