

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 1828

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.