

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 1176

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the Texas Maritime Regiment of the Texas  
2 State Guard are marching from Camp Mabry to the State Capitol on  
3 April 9, 2011, to commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Bataan  
4 Death March; and

5           WHEREAS, In December 1941, hours after the bombing of Pearl  
6 Harbor, the Japanese attacked United States military bases in the  
7 Philippines; ground forces invaded two weeks later and drove  
8 American and Filipino troops from Manila to the Bataan Peninsula,  
9 where they fought desperately in the mountainous jungles; cut off  
10 from supply lines, the Americans and Filipinos ran out of food and  
11 ammunition, and their ranks were decimated by hunger and disease;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, U.S. General Edward King surrendered Bataan on April  
14 9, 1942; the next day, some 76,000 Americans and Filipinos were  
15 forced to begin marching to a prisoner-of-war camp more than 60  
16 miles away, under the broiling sun with little food and almost no  
17 water; soldiers who paused or fell were summarily executed, along  
18 with anyone who tried to help them; as many as 11,000 died en route  
19 from thirst, starvation, disease, and brutality; eventually,  
20 American prisoners of war were transported to slave labor camps in  
21 Asia or interned in the camp at Cabanatuan, where 500 who survived  
22 were finally liberated three years later by an elite Ranger  
23 battalion and the Philippine resistance; and

24           WHEREAS, Citizens of this nation owe an immeasurable debt to

1 the soldiers who fought against overwhelming odds in Bataan, and  
2 the courage, patriotism, and resolve they demonstrated under the  
3 most extreme deprivation and hardship remain a lasting source of  
4 inspiration; it is indeed fitting to pay tribute to those who  
5 perished and those who survived the brutal march and suffered  
6 further trials as prisoners of war; now, therefore, be it

7       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
8 Legislature hereby commemorate the 69th anniversary of the Bataan  
9 Death March and honor the profound sacrifice of the valiant  
10 soldiers who risked all out of love for their country and dedication  
11 to our freedom.