

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Jewel Preston Looney of New Braunfels is visiting  
2 Washington, D.C., on April 26, 2013, as a guest of the San Antonio  
3 Alamo Honor Flight, and this occasion represents a fitting  
4 opportunity to honor this distinguished veteran for his service to  
5 the nation during World War II; and

6           WHEREAS, Born in 1924 in Ravenden Springs, Arkansas,  
7 J. P. Looney was eager to answer his country's call to duty, and he  
8 enlisted in the U.S. Army as soon as he came of age; after training  
9 in California, he was assigned to the 207th Engineer Combat  
10 Battalion, 1110th Engineer Combat Group, of the First Army, and he  
11 spent the months before D-day with his unit in southern England,  
12 preparing for the invasion; and

13           WHEREAS, Subsequent to the Normandy landing in June 1944,  
14 Mr. Looney and the other soldiers of the 207th Battalion took part  
15 in the massive effort to rebuild, repair, and maintain roads and  
16 bridges in support of the Allied advance; the battalion worked its  
17 way through such famous battlegrounds as Saint-Lo and the Ardennes;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, During November and December 1944, Mr. Looney was  
20 sent to Liege, Belgium, where members of the 207th were trained in  
21 the construction of "Bailey bridges," portable, prefabricated  
22 metal spans that rested on barges; Mr. Looney was taught how to  
23 captain a tugboat, and he learned to maneuver barges in the rapid  
24 currents of the Meuse River; while he and his fellow soldiers were

1 engaged in this training, the Germans often launched buzz bombs  
2 into the city; and

3         WHEREAS, After the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and  
4 January 1945, the Wehrmacht destroyed most of the bridges across  
5 the Rhine as they were driven back into Germany, and the 207th was  
6 given the mission of building a Bailey bridge across the Rhine at  
7 Bad Godesberg; designed by General Courtney H. Hodges, the span was  
8 to be the first two-lane Bailey bridge across the river; it would  
9 stretch for more than 1,174 feet and be capable of moving 1,000  
10 vehicles a day; and

11         WHEREAS, The 207th Battalion worked to build the bridge out  
12 from the west bank while another battalion worked from the east;  
13 Mr. Looney used a tugboat to position the underlying barges,  
14 working in powerful currents at a time when the water level in the  
15 Rhine was at an all-time high; after his job was done, he joined the  
16 forces on the eastern bank to help defend the bridge against German  
17 attempts to destroy it; and

18         WHEREAS, The construction of the bridge began on March 26,  
19 1945, and the bridge was opened for traffic on April 6; named the  
20 Hodges Bridge, after its designer, this engineering marvel enabled  
21 the First Army to move quickly into Germany and played a vital role  
22 in hastening the end of the war in Europe; on May 8, 1945, just over  
23 a month after the bridge was commissioned, the Germans surrendered;  
24 and

25         WHEREAS, For his service during the war, Mr. Looney earned  
26 the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four  
27 bronze service stars; and

1           WHEREAS, Following his discharge from the armed forces,  
2 Mr. Looney worked in the oil and gas exploration business for a time  
3 before joining Texas Instruments in Houston; he later helped found  
4 the Mensor Corporation, which manufactures pressure measuring  
5 devices; the enterprise has been located in San Marcos since 1978,  
6 and three generations of Mr. Looney's family have worked for the  
7 company; and

8           WHEREAS, Mr. Looney and his wife, the former Alma Elizabeth  
9 Randall, exchanged their wedding vows in 1952, and over the years  
10 they have been blessed with three daughters, seven grandchildren,  
11 and two great-grandchildren; and

12           WHEREAS, During his visit to Washington, D.C., Mr. Looney  
13 will visit the World War II Memorial in the company of other  
14 veterans, and together they will honor the comrades they lost,  
15 share their memories of hardship and triumph, and reflect with  
16 pride on the role they played in one of our nation's finest hours;  
17 now, therefore, be it

18           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
19 Legislature hereby honor Jewel Preston Looney for his outstanding  
20 service during World War II and extend to him sincere best wishes  
21 for a meaningful and memorable visit to our nation's capital; and,  
22 be it further

23           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for Mr. Looney as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
25 House of Representatives.

Miller of Comal

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

H.R. No. 1513

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1513 was adopted by the House on April 24, 2013, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House