

By: Riddle

H.R. No. 605

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Marine Corps Coordinating Council of the
2 Houston-Galveston area is honoring veterans of the Battle of Iwo
3 Jima at a celebration aboard the USS *Texas* in La Porte on February
4 22, 2015, as part of ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of one
5 of the fiercest battles of World War II; and

6 WHEREAS, Just before nine in the morning on February 19,
7 1945, the first contingent of U.S. Marines came ashore on the
8 Japanese island of Iwo Jima, with the mission of capturing the
9 enemy's airfields; over the next 36 days, 60,000 marines, supported
10 by the U.S. Navy, several thousand navy Seabees, and members of the
11 U.S. Army and the U.S. Coast Guard, engaged in savage fighting
12 against 21,000 stubbornly entrenched Japanese troops; more than
13 6,800 Americans were killed, while another 19,000 were wounded;
14 only 1,000 of the Japanese soldiers survived; and

15 WHEREAS, The USS *Texas* was one of 450 American ships that
16 supported the invasion of Iwo Jima; having earlier taken part in the
17 invasions of Morocco and Normandy, the *Texas* sailed to the Pacific
18 at the end of 1944, where it joined the flotilla off Iwo Jima on
19 February 16, 1945; for the next three days, its heavy guns helped
20 pound the Japanese positions in preparation for the American
21 assault; after the marines went ashore, the ship continued to offer
22 "on-call fire" until February 21, when it left to take part in the
23 battle for Okinawa; and

24 WHEREAS, Today, the USS *Texas* is a battleship memorial museum

1 at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, and it offers a
2 fitting setting in which to welcome veterans who helped to secure
3 the dearly won victory at the Battle of Iwo Jima as they gather to
4 renew the bonds of fellowship and to remember the immeasurable
5 sacrifice of their fallen comrades; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize the tribute to veterans of the Battle
8 of Iwo Jima that is being hosted by the Marine Corps Coordinating
9 Council of the Houston-Galveston area on the 70th anniversary of
10 that battle and extend to the members of the council and their
11 honored guests sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable
12 event; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the Marine Corps Coordinating Council of the
15 Houston-Galveston area as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives.