

By: Howard

H.R. No. 1547

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On July 18, 2017, the Texas Army National Guard is
2 celebrating the 100th anniversary of its historic 36th Infantry
3 Division; and

4 WHEREAS, Organized at Camp Bowie in 1917, the 36th was
5 originally made up of soldiers from Texas and Oklahoma, and the
6 division's shoulder patch reflected that composition with a flint
7 arrowhead representing Oklahoma and a capital letter T for Texas;
8 the division sailed for Europe in July 1918 and played a significant
9 role in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, which was fought from
10 September 26 until the armistice of November 11, 1918, and which has
11 been called the greatest American battle of World War I; over the
12 course of its service in the Great War, the 36th lost 466 men
13 killed, while another 2,118 were wounded; and

14 WHEREAS, After being deactivated in June 1919, the 36th was
15 reactivated in November 1940 as a purely Texas division; during
16 World War II, the members of the 36th were involved in the Allied
17 landing near Salerno, southern Italy, in September 1943, and during
18 the grueling Italian campaign, they fought at San Pietro, Cassino,
19 and Anzio and helped to liberate Rome; in August 1944, the division
20 landed on the Mediterranean coast of France as part of Operation
21 Dragoon, and it subsequently fought its way up through eastern
22 France, across southern Germany, and into Austria; in the waning
23 days of the war in Europe, its troops captured a number of
24 high-ranking Nazi officials and officers, including Hermann

1 Göering and Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt; altogether, the
2 division saw 400 days of combat in World War II and suffered more
3 than 3,100 men killed, as well as some 13,200 wounded, 500 missing
4 in action, and 2,600 captured; among the awards garnered by
5 elements and personnel of the division were 12 Presidential Unit
6 Citations, 14 Medals of Honor, and 80 Distinguished Service
7 Crosses; and

8 WHEREAS, During the Global War on Terror, units of the 36th
9 served several deployments in Iraq between 2005 and 2010, securing
10 logistics convoys and routes, providing aviation support,
11 conducting detainee operations, and providing command and control
12 for U.S. forces during the Iraq drawdown; since the beginning of
13 2016, two task forces of the 36th have been mobilized in support of
14 the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan, where they have provided
15 command and control for the Train, Advise and Assist
16 Command--South; they are the first National Guard units to assume
17 responsibility for a regional command in Afghanistan in a combat
18 environment; and

19 WHEREAS, Answering their nation's call to duty during three
20 distinct times of conflict, the courageous Texans of the 36th
21 Infantry Division have met every challenge put before them and
22 consistently embodied the highest ideals of this country's armed
23 forces; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
25 Legislature hereby commemorate the centennial of the 36th Infantry
26 Division of the Texas Army National Guard and extend to its men and
27 women heartfelt gratitude for their service and sincere best wishes

1 for the future; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for the 36th Infantry Division as an expression of high
4 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.