

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 924

WHEREAS, Our nation's victory in World War II required the dedication and sacrifice of millions of Americans and their families, and the demands of that titanic struggle fell especially heavily on the family of Pablo and Cruz Valencia Gonzales of Fort Stockton, who sent six of their sons into harm's way; and

WHEREAS, Pablo Gonzales was the son of Felix Gonzales, one of the earliest settlers of Fort Stockton, and after the death of his wife, Cruz, in 1933, he raised their 10 children with the help of his sister, Carolina; during World War II, six of his sons entered the U.S. Army and served honorably in Europe and the Pacific and at bases in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The oldest brother, Private First Class Abran Gonzales, was deployed to England and took part in the invasion of France; Private Natividad Gonzales fought in Italy and helped to liberate Rome; Private Nicholas Gonzales saw action during his two years in the South Pacific, and the youngest of the six, Private Albertano Gonzales, served with the 3rd Army, 5th Infantry Division, in Europe, where he was personally presented with the Silver Star by General George Patton for his gallantry in combat; and

WHEREAS, Two other brothers were still awaiting their overseas assignments when the war ended, with Private Pilar Gonzales stationed at Camp Fannin near Tyler and Private Reyes Gonzales based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota; the family's youngest son, Isabel Gonzales, later followed in his older brothers' footsteps and served in the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, Today, more than 70 years after the end of World War II, the six brothers have all passed away, but their children and grandchildren continue to honor their memory and to share the story of the brothers' sacrifice with the youngest members of the family; and

WHEREAS, These brave Texans answered their nation's call to duty and risked their lives to preserve democracy and liberty, and their efforts offer a moving example of the immense contributions that have been made by Hispanic Americans in the United States armed forces; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby honor Abran, Natividad, Nicholas, Albertano, Pilar, and Reyes Gonzales, Fort Stockton's own "Band of Brothers," for their courageous service during World War II; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the Gonzales family as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Uresti

Buckingham
Campbell
Lucio

Menéndez
Nelson
Perry

Rodríguez
Seliger
Taylor of Collin

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 29, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate