

By: Price

H.R. No. 2209

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On June 6, 2019, Americans and freedom-loving people  
2 from around the globe will pause to reflect, honor, and commemorate  
3 the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion by principally American,  
4 British, and Canadian military troops by amphibious assault from  
5 the English Channel on the beaches of Normandy, France, and via  
6 airborne assault in the French countryside by their fellow  
7 paratroopers, totaling nearly 160,000 men, this military campaign  
8 code-named "Operation Overlord" significantly led to the ultimate  
9 liberation of Europe and the end of World War II; and

10           WHEREAS, Though Germany's Third Reich was suffering heavy  
11 military losses on the Eastern Front, it still controlled much of  
12 Europe; after entering the war in December 1941, U.S. armed forces  
13 joined with other Allied forces to drive the German Africa Corps out  
14 of North Africa in May 1943, and in July of that year, the American  
15 and British forces began the liberation of Europe with the invasion  
16 of Sicily; by the summer of 1944, World War II had been raging for  
17 nearly five years; and

18           WHEREAS, Planning for an Allied invasion across the English  
19 Channel subsequently commenced, and in January 1944, General Dwight  
20 D. Eisenhower was appointed as commander of Operation Overlord;  
21 faced with a 2,400-mile German defensive line of bunkers, land  
22 mines, and beach obstacles known as the Atlantic Wall, the Allies  
23 began to train a force of American, British, and Canadian troops in  
24 Britain; and

1           WHEREAS, In the months leading up to the invasion, the  
2 British and American air forces flew 200,000 sorties and dropped  
3 195,000 tons of bombs on German installations in France, attacking  
4 rail centers, airfields, military bases, radar stations, and  
5 coastal artillery batteries; the Allies also engaged in an  
6 extensive deception operation intended to fool the Germans into  
7 thinking the invasion would take place near Pas-de-Calais, instead  
8 of the real target, the coast of Normandy; and

9           WHEREAS, Late in the day of June 5, 1944, almost 6,000 ships  
10 and landing craft loaded with troops and supplies left Britain and  
11 started across the English Channel toward France; that night,  
12 approximately 800 aircraft carrying paratroopers and towing  
13 gliders dropped members of the American 82nd and 101st Airborne  
14 Divisions and the British 6th Airborne Division behind enemy lines  
15 in Normandy; and

16           WHEREAS, At 6:30 a.m. on June 6, 1944, the first of 156,000  
17 Allied troops landed on the shores of Normandy; the soldiers at the  
18 beachheads of Gold, Juno, Sword, and Utah met light German  
19 resistance, but at Omaha Beach, the U.S. 1st Division encountered  
20 strong Wehrmacht defenses; the Americans fought for every inch of  
21 ground, suffering more than 2,000 casualties before finally seizing  
22 control and taking the beach; and

23           WHEREAS, A week later, the coast was completely under Allied  
24 command, and over 326,000 troops, 50,000 vehicles, and 100,000 tons  
25 of equipment had been landed; by the end of August 1944, the Allies  
26 had liberated Paris and driven the Germans out of northwestern  
27 France; there was much hard fighting to come as the Allies advanced

1 east into Germany, but less than a year after D-Day, on May 8, 1945,  
2 the Allies accepted the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, One of the greatest military feats in history, the  
5 Normandy invasion is a testament to the bold leadership and  
6 logistical skill of General Eisenhower and the Allied command, but  
7 in the end, the success of the operation relied heavily on the  
8 determination and courage of the troops who waded through the surf  
9 into a hail of machine gun bullets, who rode gliders in the dark  
10 through bursts of antiaircraft fire, and who parachuted into the  
11 French countryside occupied by the enemy; and

12 WHEREAS, The heroism and sacrifice of these soldiers, airmen,  
13 and sailors were essential in liberating a continent and ending one  
14 of the most brutal dictatorships of the 20th century, and  
15 succeeding generations owe them a debt of gratitude that time can  
16 never erase; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day  
19 invasion and pay tribute to the veterans who participated and to  
20 those who lost their lives.