

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 743

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band and The University of Texas Longhorn Band have accepted an invitation to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, in Normandy, France, on June 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band and The University of Texas Longhorn Band have a distinguished history of representing the university and the State of Texas, and on this memorable and historic occasion, more than 550 alumni band members and guests are participating to mark the most celebrated World War II anniversary, which commemorates the beginning of the end of Nazi control over Europe; and

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band was selected because this group represents the best of American culture, of patriotism, and of friendship among the neighbors, friends, and allies of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The Longhorn Alumni Band will be honoring the American and Allied forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Battle of Normandy during the Allied offensive code-named Operation Overlord, which launched the successful invasion of German-occupied Western Europe during World War II on June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, The Longhorn Alumni Band will serve as the ceremonial band at official D-Day services in France at the Brittany American Cemetery and at the Normandy American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach; and

WHEREAS, Longhorn Alumni Band member Kenny Bierschenk will play "Taps" on a trumpet which survived the Normandy invasion and was presented to the alumni band by the grandson of Sergeant Richard Wank, who took part in the World War II invasion and was the first person off the landing craft and only survivor of his Higgins boat unit; and

WHEREAS, The Longhorn Alumni Band will participate as the final band in the Musical Salute to Liberation in the June 8, 2019, celebration parade in Sainte-Mère-Église, which is traditionally attended by citizens from around the world who celebrate and show their gratitude for the liberation of France; and

WHEREAS, The University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band is over 4,000 members strong and enjoys worldwide renown; it was established in 1964 by several alumni band members in coordination with Vincent R. DiNino, Director Emeritus of the Longhorn Band, and his wife, Jane DiNino, to continue the long-standing traditions of the Longhorn Band, and it provides scholarships, endowments, and mentorship for the benefit of current Longhorn Band members; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize and commend The University of Texas Longhorn Alumni Band and The University of Texas Longhorn Band for representing the United States of America and the State of Texas on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy in France.

Watson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 15, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate