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By:  Murr H.R. No. 47

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Vernon Ollar of Kerr County is celebrating his 100th birthday on July 26, 2021, and this joyous occasion provides a fitting opportunity to recognize this esteemed member of the Greatest Generation for his service during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Born in Moline, Illinois, in 1921, Vern Ollar grew up in neighboring Rock Island; he worked at an ordnance plant before joining the United States Army in December 1942; after basic training with the Chemical Warfare Service at Camp Sibert in Alabama, he was stationed at Camp Polk in Louisiana, with the 81st Chemical Mortar Battalion, and then went on mountain maneuvers at Camp Pickens in Virginia; he was deployed to England aboard the *Capetown Castle*, a converted British ocean liner, and following an arduous journey, he trained for months in the frigid English Channel in preparation for D-Day; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ollar landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944, with the 116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, in the first wave of the attack; as a mortarman, he had to enter deep, icy water to drag the weapons ashore while dodging enemy fire and anti-tank mines; he was the gunner for his squad, which quickly took out a machine gun nest; after securing the bluff tops, the division advanced, and Mr. Ollar and his comrades had to seek food and shelter at abandoned farmsteads; he took part in the bitter fighting through hedgerows and proceeded across France and Belgium to Germany; for his valor at Dillingen, he received a bronze star; toward the end of the war, he was also involved in the development of radar technology to detect the origin of incoming artillery rounds; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of a century, Vern Ollar has not only bravely served his nation, but has also met the challenges and opportunities of a long life with fortitude, earning the lasting respect and admiration of all who are fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Vernon Ollar on the occasion of his 100th birthday and honor him for his patriotic service during World War II; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for Mr. Ollar as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.