

By: Murr

H.R. No. 47

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Ollar landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944,
16 with the 116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, in the first wave
17 of the attack; as a mortarman, he had to enter deep, icy water to
18 drag the weapons ashore while dodging enemy fire and anti-tank
19 mines; he was the gunner for his squad, which quickly took out a
20 machine gun nest; after securing the bluff tops, the division
21 advanced, and Mr. Ollar and his comrades had to seek food and
22 shelter at abandoned farmsteads; he took part in the bitter
23 fighting through hedgerows and proceeded across France and Belgium
24 to Germany; for his valor at Dillingen, he received a bronze star;

1 toward the end of the war, he was also involved in the development
2 of radar technology to detect the origin of incoming artillery
3 rounds; and

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

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

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