

By: Price

H.R. No. 1399

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, During World War II, countless Americans made
2 immense sacrifices in the struggle against tyranny, and among the
3 heroic figures who endured tremendous hardship in behalf of our
4 country was the late Donald Teague, who survived four years in a
5 Japanese prisoner of war camp; and

6 WHEREAS, Immediately before the war, Mr. Teague was a member
7 of the New Mexico National Guard; though he was released from duty
8 in 1940 as the result of a medical condition, he was determined to
9 serve his nation, and he was readmitted into the military following
10 treatment; and

11 WHEREAS, When the United States entered the war following the
12 attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Mr. Teague participated in
13 the defense of the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines; captured by
14 the Japanese, he was sent to Camp O'Donnell, a former training
15 center used by the Japanese as a prisoner of war camp; the
16 conditions at the camp were horrific; vast numbers of prisoners
17 died of malnutrition, malaria, and dysentery, and Mr. Teague was
18 assigned to help bury his dead comrades in a mass grave that was
19 only a foot and a half deep; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Teague and his fellow prisoners were
21 subsequently moved to another camp by train, packed so tightly into
22 cattle cars that many died during the journey; they were later
23 shipped away from the Philippines, spending 39 days in the hold of a
24 so-called "hell ship" that had been previously used to transport

1 horses; over the course of his captivity, Mr. Teague's weight
2 dropped to 100 pounds, and near the end of the war, he contracted
3 pleurisy; after being admitted to a Red Cross hospital, he was given
4 the first substantial food he had eaten since his capture; and

5 WHEREAS, According to a 1990 interview preserved by
6 Mr. Teague's sister, Jean Cummins of Dumas, he briefly considered
7 giving up during his four-year ordeal, but he persevered,
8 determined to return to his family; he was liberated in 1945 and
9 treated at the U.S. Army 42nd Field Hospital in Yokohama, Japan,
10 before being shipped home; in civilian life, he earned a Ph.D. and
11 enjoyed a successful career as a college professor in Illinois and
12 California; he passed away in 1990, at the age of 72; and

13 WHEREAS, Demonstrating the highest degree of patriotism,
14 Donald Teague fought courageously for his country and steadfastly
15 endured the horrors of his captivity, and the exemplary service he
16 rendered in behalf of his fellow citizens is deserving of the
17 deepest gratitude of every American; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the service and sacrifice of
20 Donald Teague during World War II and commend his loved ones for
21 preserving his memory; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family as an expression of high regard by the Texas
24 House of Representatives.