

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 481

Expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement of Major Richard D. Winters (Ret.) during World War II, and commending him for leadership and valor in leading the men of Easy Company.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2004

Mr. SANTORUM submitted the following resolution

NOVEMBER 21 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 20), 2004

Considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement of Major Richard D. Winters (Ret.) during World War II, and commending him for leadership and valor in leading the men of Easy Company.

Whereas historians have written that World War II began on September 1, 1939, when Nazi Germany, without a declaration of war, invaded Poland; and following Poland's surrender, the Nazis quickly moved to invade and occupy Denmark, Norway, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium;

Whereas following the Japanese sneak attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, the United States declared war on Japan and entered the conflict on the side of freedom and democracy;

Whereas when the fate of the free world was in jeopardy as a direct result of Adolf Hitler and the Nazi regime's desire for world conquest, the "greatest generation ever" took up the task of ridding the world of Nazi and Fascist regimes;

Whereas in 1944 the military forces of the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada landed at 5 beaches (Utah Beach, Omaha Beach, Gold Beach, Juno Beach, and Sword Beach) in Normandy, France with the goal of liberating Europe from the Nazi forces;

Whereas according to military historians, in preparation for the amphibious invasion at Normandy, Allied planes pounded the Nazi defenders and dropped thousands of paratroopers behind German lines the night before the seaborne landings;

Whereas Major Richard D. Winters (Ret.), a native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania and a graduate of Franklin & Marshall College, served the United States honorably and with great distinction as 1st Lieutenant, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division;

Whereas landing at the town of Ste. Mere-Eglise on June 6, 1944, Lieutenant Winters took command of "Easy Company" following the death of the company commander in the airborne drop, and received orders to destroy a four-gun battery of German 105mm howitzers at a French

farmhouse named “Brecourt Manor”, 3 kilometers from Ste. Marie-du-Mont;

Whereas Lieutenant Winters, with only 12 men, proceeded to assault this enemy battery which was directing heavy fire against the 4th Infantry Division as they landed on Utah Beach;

Whereas against great odds, and through extraordinary bravery, Lieutenant Winters and his men were able to overcome a platoon of 50 elite German soldiers guarding the battery;

Whereas Lieutenant Winters personally led the attack and repeatedly exposed himself directly to enemy fire while performing his military duties;

Whereas this gallant action by Lieutenant Winters and his men, 4 of whom gave their lives, and 2 of whom were wounded, saved countless lives among the soldiers of the 4th Infantry Division; and

Whereas Lieutenant Richard D. Winters received the Distinguished Service Cross in recognition of his outstanding military service and achievement during the Normandy campaign: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) salutes the accomplishments of Lieutenant
3 Richard D. Winters and the men of “Easy Com-
4 pany” for their actions to ensure control over Utah
5 Beach at Normandy;

6 (2) commends the heroism and bravery shown
7 by Lieutenant Richard D. Winters in the face of
8 death and severe hardship to accomplish his mission

1 and save the lives of Allied Forces landing at Utah
2 Beach;

3 (3) acknowledges the historical achievements of
4 Lieutenant Richard D. Winters and the men of
5 “Easy Company” in assuring the success of the Al-
6 lied Normandy campaign, begun on June 6, 1944;
7 and

8 (4) expresses its gratitude for the selfless serv-
9 ice of Lieutenant Richard D. Winters, the men of
10 “Easy Company,” and all veterans who served in
11 World War II in restoring freedom to the world and
12 for defeating the elements of evil and oppression.

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