

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1483

Recognizing the exemplary service and sacrifice of the soldiers of the 14th Armored Division of the United States Army, known as the Liberators, during World War II.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 28, 2010

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia (for himself and Mr. SKELTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the exemplary service and sacrifice of the soldiers of the 14th Armored Division of the United States Army, known as the Liberators, during World War II.

Whereas the 14th Armored Division was activated on November 15, 1942, at Camp Chafee, Arkansas, as a unit of the United States Army;

Whereas the Division's 19th, 62d, and 68th Armored Infantry Battalions traced their lineage back to the 62d Infantry Regiment, which was deployed during World War I;

Whereas the Division landed in southern France on October 29, 1944, and first entered combat on November 14, 1944;

Whereas the Division participated in the Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central European Campaigns, with

part of the Division also participating in the Maritime Alps Campaign;

Whereas the Division participated in the liberation of the French province of Alsace in late November, 1944, and on December 13, 1944, joined the rest of the 7th Army in attacking the strongly fortified positions of the Siegfried Line inside Germany, and was there engaged in battle on December 19, when General Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the 7th Army to withdraw from Germany in response to the serious threat posed by a major German offensive in the Ardennes;

Whereas when the German army launched Operation Nordwind, the last major German offensive of the European war, against 7th Army positions, the Division engaged several German divisions between January 1 and January 7, 1945, contributing materially to stopping the initial German attacks;

Whereas it was during one of these engagements on January 3 and 4, 1945, that the Division's Private First Class George B. Turner earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions in helping to repel repeated German attacks at Philippsbourg, France;

Whereas, on January 9, 1945, the Division stopped the German XXXIX Panzer Corps from breaking through the 7th Army's lines at the villages of Hatten and Rittershoffen;

Whereas, between January 9 and January 21, 1945, the Division fought the 21st Panzer Division, 25th Panzer Grenadier Division, 20th Regiment of the 7th Parachute Division, and the 104th Regiment of the 47th

Volksgrenadier Division to a standstill during the ensuing Battle of Hatten-Rittershoffen;

Whereas units of the Division were awarded two Presidential Unit Citations for their actions at Hatten and Rittershoffen;

Whereas, on March 24, 1945, after days of heavy fighting, the Division broke through the Siegfried Line and advanced to the Rhine River;

Whereas, after crossing the Rhine River, the Division liberated Stalag XIII–C and Oflag XIII–B, two large prisoner of war camps at Hammelburg, Germany;

Whereas, during April 1945, the Division rapidly advanced hundreds of miles across southern Germany, fighting numerous battles before crossing the Danube River north of Munich;

Whereas, on April 29, 1945, the Division, after a fierce engagement with several thousand SS troops, liberated Stalag VII–A, the largest prisoner of war camp in Germany;

Whereas the Division is designated a “Liberating Unit” by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in recognition of its liberation of approximately 250,000 civilians of many nationalities and ethnicities from forced labor and concentration camps, including several large sub-camps of the notorious Dachau concentration camp system;

Whereas the Secretary of the Army awarded the Division the distinctive unit designation, “Liberators”, in recognition of the Division’s role in liberating approximately 30,000 members of the Armed Forces of the United States and 170,000 Allied military personnel from German prisoner of war camps; and

Whereas the proud fighting tradition and accomplishments of the Division and its men, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice, must not be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives recog-
2 nizes the exemplary service and sacrifice of the soldiers
3 of the 14th Armored Division of the United States Army,
4 known as the Liberators, during World War II.

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