

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 326

Recognizing the crew of the San Antonio Rose, B-17F, who sacrificed their lives during World War II, and honoring their memory during the week of the 75th anniversary of that tragic event.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL, Mr. TESTER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

DECEMBER 20, 2017

Committee discharged; considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the crew of the San Antonio Rose, B-17F, who sacrificed their lives during World War II, and honoring their memory during the week of the 75th anniversary of that tragic event.

Whereas, in 1943, the ongoing fighting against the Japanese in the Pacific during World War II was treacherous, a decisive outcome hung in the balance, and every victory against the Japanese contributed to the ultimate success in the region;

Whereas, on January 5, 1943, six B-17s of the 43rd Bombardment Group and six B-24s of the 90th Bombard-

ment Group left from Port Moresby, New Guinea, to bomb shipping at Rabaul, New Britain, to break up a major Japanese reinforcement convoy;

Whereas, with the San Antonio Rose, B-17F (No. 41-24458), in the lead, the twelve bombers of the anti-shipping strike proceeded to Rabaul splitting the formation to target shipping in Blanche Bay, Simpson Harbor, Keravia Bay, and Vunapope;

Whereas the American attack surprised the Japanese, and they did not fire anti-aircraft artillery until after the American bombs had been successfully dropped on their targets;

Whereas, when bombers rejoined formation, the San Antonio Rose was no longer in the lead and did not rejoin the formation;

Whereas the San Antonio Rose was last reported to have smoke trailing from the aircraft while being pursued by Japanese fighters into the clouds heading south just east of Vunakanau, New Britain Island, in what is now Papua New Guinea;

Whereas the San Antonio Rose was never sighted again;

Whereas the crew onboard the San Antonio Rose were declared missing in action on January 5, 1943, and subsequently declared killed in action on December 12, 1945;

Whereas the members of the crew of the San Antonio Rose included—

Pilot, Major Allen Lindberg, New York, New York
Co-Pilot, Captain Benton H. Daniel, Hollis, Oklahoma

Bombardier, 2nd Lieutenant Robert L. Hand, Fields Store, Texas

Navigator, 1st Lieutenant John W. Hanson, Missoula, Montana

Engineer, Technical Sergeant Dennis T. Craig, New York, New York

Radio, Staff Sergeant Quentin W. Blakely, Washington, District of Columbia

Gunner, Sergeant Leslie A. Stewart, East Chicago, Illinois

Gunner, Private First Class Leland W. Stone, Oakland, California

Gunner, Private First Class William G. Fraser, Jr., San Antonio, Texas

Observer, Lieutenant Colonel Jack W. Bleasdale, San Fernando, California

Observer, Brigadier General Kenneth N. Walker, Cerillos, New Mexico; and

Whereas the crew of the San Antonio Rose, including Brigadier General Kenneth N. Walker, Medal of Honor recipient and highest ranking officer missing in action from World War II, have never been recovered and brought home to rest: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) recognizes that the heroic actions and self-
3 lessness of the crew of the San Antonio Rose, B-
4 17F (No. 41-24458), led to lessons learned that di-
5 rectly impacted the success of subsequent missions,
6 including the Battle of the Bismarck Sea;

7 (2) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the
8 loss of the San Antonio Rose and its crew;

1 (3) expresses gratitude to the Airmen who
2 served aboard the San Antonio Rose for their faith-
3 ful service; and

4 (4) honors the memory of the crew of the San
5 Antonio Rose with a pledge to never forget their sac-
6 rifice by encouraging the continued search and re-
7 covery of their remains, and to fulfill the promise to
8 finally bring them home.

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