ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 8

By: Wilkerson, Bell, Brown, Cain, Capps, Cole, Cullison, Dickerson, Douglass, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gustafson, Haney, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Hooper, Horner, Kerr, Lawler, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long (Ed), Long (Lewis), Mickle, Miles-LaGrange, Muegge, Pierce, Price, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Rubottom, Shedrick, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Williams (Don), Williams (Penny) and Wright of the Senate

and

Johnson (Glen), Adair, Dunegan, Apple, Begley, Dunlap, Erwin, Ferguson, Hefner, Henshaw, Hilliard, Hutchison, Kinnamon, Kouba, Langmacher, Mitchell, Monks, Pope, Reese, Rhodes (Dusty), Sadler, Satterfield, Smith (Bill), Smith (David), Stanley, Sullivan, Taylor, Tyler, Vaughn (George), Voskuhl, Weese, York and Rhoads (Karroll) of the House

A Concurrent Resolution memorializing the service of Captain Otho Butler of the 45th Infantry Division of the National Guard; designating State Highway No. 1 from Ada through Allen to Calvin, Oklahoma, as the Captain Otho Butler Memorial Highway; directing the Department of Transportation to place appropriate markers; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Otho Butler was a native of Allen, Oklahoma, graduating from the Allen High School; and

WHEREAS, he became a member of the 45th Infantry Division of the Oklahoma National Guard on June 6, 1931, and was inducted into Federal Service on September 16, 1940, as Commanding Officer of Headquarters Company, Second Battalion 180th Infantry; and

WHEREAS, due to his leadership as a combat officer he was assigned as Company Commander of Company G, Second Battalion 180th Infantry, and as a Captain, led that unit in combat in the Sicilian invasion during July 1943; and

WHEREAS, he was killed in action on July 25, 1943, in the battle for Finale, East of Cefalu, under the conditions described below:

Company G made a direct attack on a hill to the right front of the Second Battalion's position and a bitter fight ensued. The

Germans seemed to concentrate everything they had on this company for about an hour, and a bloody hour it was. Captain Otho Butler, Allen, Oklahoma, Commanding Officer of Company G was a very ill person on the morning of July 25th. After being persuaded to go to the aid station, he was advised by Captain George E. Mortis, Peabody, Massachusetts, Surgeon of the Second Battalion, that he had a temperature of 103 degrees, that he probably had malaria, and that he should go back to a rear area and rest pending evacuation to the hospital. Captain Butler, knowing what was in store for his Company that day, remarked that his boys would need him more and more as the day progressed. This was about 9:00 A.M. Despite the admonition of the Surgeon, he went back to his Company. At about 1:00 P.M. he was called forward to receive attack orders. The Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Cochran, noted his pale appearance and asked him how he felt. Although he was very ill at the time, Captain Butler replied he felt fine. He returned to his Company, issued his order for the attack and led his men forward. Otho Butler, as a well man, had made an enviable record in the Sicilian Campaign in prior battles, and he did not let the fact that he was seriously ill and suffering from fever and a throbbing headache affect his leadership in this, his last battle. As the hail of German small arms, mortar and cannon fire sought his men out, he went about under the fire, directing his men and showing them favorable approaches towards the hill positions of the Germans. When a man would hesitate, it seemed that Captain Butler would always be there beside him to give him a quiet word of confidence. To do this, he had to constantly expose himself. As he led a group forward, the German fire found him. He staggered, tried to move on, and then sat down on a rock, saying, "Boys, I'm hit, take care of yourselves". A man tried to reach him but he motioned him back. The Germans put down a curtain of fire between the Captain and his men. It was at this place that they finally found him. The brave leader, in whose veins flowed the blood of the first Americans, was dead. A Silver Star, posthumously awarded, commemorated the bravery and self-sacrifice so unselfishly displayed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Allen, his wife Lola Dell, his daughter Benita Beth, and his fellow comrades in arms, desire to memorialize this brave man; and

WHEREAS, State Highway No. 1 from Ada, Oklahoma, to Calvin, Oklahoma, intersects Oklahoma State Highway No. 3 which has been designated the 45th Infantry Division Memorial Highway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT Oklahoma State Highway No. 1 from Ada, Oklahoma, through Allen, Oklahoma, to Calvin, Oklahoma, is hereby designated "Captain Otho Butler Memorial Highway", as a lasting testimonial to the courage and sacrifice of Captain Otho Butler in the performance of his duties as a member of the 45th Infantry Division of the National Guard. The Department of Transportation shall cause appropriate markers, patterned after the 45th Infantry Division Memorial Highway markers, to be erected on said highway, in coordination with the 180th Infantry Association, a part of the 45th Infantry Division Association.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Department of Transportation, Mrs. Lola Dell Butler and Ms. Benita Beth Butler of Allen, Oklahoma, and Brigadier General (Ret.) Harry W. Barnes, President, 180th Infantry Association.

Adopted by the Senate the 12th day of April, 1993.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 26th day of April, 1993.

Speaker of the House of Representatives