

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 95

By: Wilkerson of the Senate

and

Turner of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution praising the heroism and courage of the members of 45th Infantry Division; thanking the citizens and officials of Nettuno and Anzio, Italy, for honoring Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, during World War II, when Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division, the Thunderbirds, departed after the four-month battle of Anzio in Italy, they received their third battle star and left 859 dead; and

WHEREAS, although there is a cemetery in Anzio, Italy, which is dedicated to all American military personnel who lost their lives in that siege and there are plaques for other divisions, the 45th Division, which lost the most lives, has no special recognition; and

WHEREAS, members of the 180th Infantry Regimental Association, all veterans of the 45th Division, have raised funds to place a permanent marker at the cemetery to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans of the 180th along with family members will make a trip to Italy and dedicate the marble plaque on May 29, 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Thunderbird plaque which will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 29, 2000, to the 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division in Nettuno-Anzio (Italy), reads in part: "To the

Gallant Men Who Fought and to Those that Rest in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery 'You Will Not Be Forgotten'; and

WHEREAS, many officials and citizens of Nettuno and Anzio, Italy, have graciously helped construct the Thunderbird marker and build a place of honor for it at the cemetery entrance as a lasting tribute to the men of the "Fighting 45th". The point of contact for the 180th Infantry Regimental Association in Italy was Silvano Casaldi who acted as Project Director for the 180th Memorial.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature praises the heroism and courage of the members of the 45th Infantry Division who battled both the weather and the enemy for four months to prevail in this crucial Italian front during World War II.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature thanks the citizens and officials of Nettuno and Anzio, Italy, for honoring Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Colonel (Retired) Jerry Smith, the President of the 180th Infantry Regimental Association for distribution to his Association and to Silvano Casaldi, Director of the Museum of Allied Landings, Nettuno, Italy; to Norman Lamb, Cabinet Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and the 45th Infantry Museum.

47-2-3304

THC

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