

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 68

By: Wilkerson

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising the valor and tenacity of the members of the 45th Infantry Division; thanking the citizens and officials of Fremifontaine, France, for honoring the soldiers of Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the people of a small French village, Fremifontaine, on the Mortagne River in the Vosges Region, have erected a monument to honor the soldiers of the 45th Division and their sacrifices in this area during World War II. Units of the 45th Division fought in the village territory for over three weeks and over 100 members of the 45th lost their lives. The first houses were liberated on September 30, 1944, and it wasn't until October 23, 1944, that the last of the enemy was dislodged; and

WHEREAS, the citizens and officials of Fremifontaine have not forgotten this struggle and want the world to know that many young Americans gave their lives for the liberation of their village. The monument was inaugurated in October of 1999. The Mayor and the County Council all donated substantial funds. The inscription engraved on the monument is meant to remind future generations that many young Americans of the 45th Division lost their lives in the area during the battle around the Mortagne River to regain freedom for the population of the village; and

WHEREAS, to quote an English translation of the bronze plaque on the stone monument, "Fremifontaine to its Liberators: American Soldiers of the 45th Infantry Division Who Fought Here from 30 Sept to 20 Oct 1944 to Liberate the Village in one of the Most Severe

Battles in the Vosges Mountains. More than 100 of Them Gave Their Lives. Passer-by Remember"; and

WHEREAS, many officials and citizens Fremifontaine, France, have graciously donated towards the monument as did the Fremifontaine Veterans Association which sponsored the project. The point of contact was Roland B. Prieur, Superintendent, of the Epinal American Cemetery who acted as Project Director.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the valor and tenacity of the members of 45th Infantry Division who battled the enemy for nearly three weeks in one of the most severe battles in the Vosges Mountains in France during World War II.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate thanks the citizens and officials of Fremifontaine, France, as well as the Fremifontaine Veterans Association for honoring the soldiers of Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the President of the 180th Infantry Regiment Association for distribution to his Association; to Roland B. Prieur, Superintendent of the Epinal American Cemetery in Dinoze, France; to Norman Lamb, Cabinet Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and the 45th Infantry Museum.

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