STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 70

By: Wilkerson of the Senate

and

Turner of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing and commending the members of the 45th Infantry Division for their landing at Salerno during World War II; thanking the citizens, the City Council, and Mayor of Comune DI Capaccio-Paestum, Italy, who helped construct the Thunderbird marker as a lasting tribute to the 45th Infantry Division; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, during World War II, after the Battle of Salerno in Italy, Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division, The Thunderbirds, departed from the area; and

WHEREAS, although there is a cemetery in Nettuno, 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 Infantry Division has no special recognition; and

WHEREAS, members of the 180th Infantry Regimental Association, all veterans of the 45th Infantry Division, have raised funds to place a permanent marker in Paestum, Province of Salerno, Italy, to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans of the 180th, along with family members, will make the trip to Italy and dedicate the marble plaque on May 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Thunderbird plaque which will be dedicated on Memorial Day, May 31, 2002, to the 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, in Paestum-Capaccio, 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 citizens and the City Council of Comune DI Capaccio-Paestum, Italy, have graciously helped construct the Thunderbird marker and build a place of honor for it at the Paestum entrance as a lasting tribute to the men of the "Fighting 45th"; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize and thank the City Council and Mayor Pasquale Marino of Capaccio-Paestum for honoring Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes and commends the members of the 45th Infantry Division for their landing at Salerno and battling both weather and the enemy in crucial combat on the Italian Front during World War II.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature thanks the citizens, the City Council, and Mayor of Comune DI Capaccio-Paestum, Italy, who have graciously helped construct the Thunderbird marker and build a place of honor for it at the Paestum entrance as a lasting tribute to the 180th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the President of the 180th Infantry Regimental Association, to the City Council and Mayor Pasquale Marino of Capaccio-Paestum, and to the 45th Infantry Museum for prominent display.

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