

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 48th Legislature (2002)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 32

By: Crutchfield

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution saluting and congratulating the 687th Field Artillery Battalion; honoring the surviving members of the 687th Field Artillery Battalion which served with distinction; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Senate has tremendous esteem for those members of America's greatest generation who enthusiastically joined in the arduous battles of World War II in pursuit of freedom for all and an end to the totalitarian regimes which had engaged in the most horrific of barbaric acts; and

WHEREAS, composed of officers and men from sixteen states, including many from Oklahoma, the 687th Field Artillery Battalion fought in several major battles including the Battle of the Bulge. During this battle, the Battalion earned a Presidential Unit Citation due to the bravery, individual leadership, courage, valor, tenacity, and success demonstrated by its members; and

WHEREAS, the 687th Field Artillery Battalion utilized armed combat tanks organized into three firing batteries, a service battery, and a headquarters battery to provide defense and ordnance support for forward infantry units, giving it great flexibility in assignments; and

WHEREAS, the 687th Field Artillery Battalion effectively interfered with the German planned advance through the Ardennes Forest during some of the coldest and snowiest weather in memory until clearing conditions allowed Allied planes to pound enemy

positions and infrastructure enough to turn the tide of battle and collapse the Axis war machine; and

WHEREAS, the 687th Field Artillery Battalion was not only composed of many Oklahomans but had trained at Fort Sill in Oklahoma before deployment overseas.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate salutes the 687th Field Artillery Battalion and the courageous soldiers who were members of the unit during World War II and congratulates them for their patriotic and selfless endeavors.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors the surviving members of the 687th Field Artillery Battalion who served with distinction during World War II, most notably in the Battle of the Bulge.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to James D. Copeland for dispersal to other surviving members of this unit in appreciation for their personal sacrifice and steadfast determination during the rigors of war.

48-2-2956

THC

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