

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 230

To urge the President to announce at the earliest opportunity the results of the Senior Army Decorations Board which reviewed certain cases of gallantry and heroism by black Americans during World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 29 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 28), 1996

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

To urge the President to announce at the earliest opportunity the results of the Senior Army Decorations Board which reviewed certain cases of gallantry and heroism by black Americans during World War II.

Whereas black Americans served in the Armed Forces during World War II with heroism and distinction, often giving their lives to ensure United States victory in that war;

Whereas prevailing attitudes in the Armed Forces at that time often prevented appropriate recognition of the distinguished service of black Americans, particularly service meriting the award of the medal of honor;

Whereas in May 1993, the Secretary of the Army convened a study to review the processes and procedures used by the Department of the Army in awarding medals during

World War II in order to determine whether racial bias and procedural violations resulted in medals not being awarded to black American members of the Army for their acts of distinguished or heroic service in that war;

Whereas the study recommended the review of the distinguished acts of 10 black American members of the Army in World War II in order to determine whether to recommend that the medal of honor be awarded to such members for such acts;

Whereas pursuant to subsection (d) of section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, the President may award a medal of honor to a person qualified for the medal, notwithstanding that the time for awarding the medal has otherwise expired under such section;

Whereas the award of the medal of honor to black Americans recommended by the Senior Army Decorations Board would reverse a past injustice; and

Whereas many family members, colleagues, and comrades of such black Americans, and a grateful Nation, have sought for more than 50 years proper and appropriate recognition for the distinguished actions of such black Americans: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the Secretary of the Army for
 3 convening a study to review the processes and proce-
 4 dures used by the Department of the Army in
 5 awarding medals for service in World War II in
 6 order to determine whether racial bias and proce-
 7 dural violations resulted in medals not being award-

1 ed to black American members of the Army for their
2 acts of distinguished or heroic service in that war;

3 (2) commends the Senior Army Decorations
4 Board for convening to review cases pertaining to
5 certain black American members of the Army for
6 their acts of conspicuous gallantry in that war; and

7 (3) urges the President, pursuant to section
8 3744(d) of title 10, United States Code, to endorse
9 the recommendations of the Senior Army Decora-
10 tions Board and bring to a close the long struggle
11 for appropriate recognition of our heroic black
12 American patriots.

○