

105TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. J. RES. 132

Commending the veterans of service in the Army who fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

Commending the veterans of service in the Army who fought in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II, and for other purposes.

Whereas the battle in the European theater of operations during World War II known as the Battle of the Bulge took place from December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945;

Whereas the Battle of the Bulge began on December 16, 1944, with a major German counteroffensive which took Allied forces by surprise and was intended to split the Allied forces in Europe by breaking through the Allied lines, crippling the Allied fuel supply lines, and exacerbate tensions within the Allied alliance;

Whereas 600,000 American troops participated in the Battle of the Bulge, overcoming numerous disadvantages in the

early days of the battle that included fewer numbers, treacherous terrain, and bitter weather conditions;

Whereas the Battle of the Bulge resulted in 81,000 American casualties, of whom 19,000 were killed, 33,400 were wounded, and 2,000 were either captured or listed as missing in action;

Whereas the worst atrocity involving Americans in the European theater during World War II, known as the Malmédy Massacre, occurred when 86 unarmed American prisoners were gunned down by the German 1st SS Panzer Division on December 17, 1944;

Whereas American forces overcame great odds throughout the battle, including most famously the action of the 101st Airborne Division in holding back German forces at the Belgian town of Bastogne, thereby preventing German forces from achieving their main objective of reaching Antwerp as well as the Meuse River line; and

Whereas the American forces success in defeating the German attack resulted in the defeat of Nazi Germany four months later in April 1945: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*

2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That Congress—

4 (1) commends the veterans of service in the
5 Army who fought in the Battle of the Bulge during
6 World War II;

7 (2) honors those who gave their lives during
8 that battle; and

1 (3) authorizes the President to issue a procla-
2 mation calling upon the people of the United States
3 to honor the veterans of the Battle of the Bulge with
4 appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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