

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 47

Recognizing the outstanding efforts of the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2003

Mr. HAGEL (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the outstanding efforts of the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

Whereas, at the beginning of World War II, residents of North Platte, Nebraska, received information that members of the Nebraska National Guard from the North Platte area would be traveling through the community of North Platte on a troop train en route to the west coast;

Whereas residents of the North Platte community met the troop train with food and other gifts for the troops when

the train arrived at the Union Pacific train station on December 17, 1941;

Whereas, although the troop train carried young men from Kansas instead of members of the Nebraska National Guard, the residents of North Platte presented the young men from Kansas with the food and other items that were donated;

Whereas Rae Wilson, of North Platte, proposed to her community the idea of establishing the North Platte Canteen so that residents could greet every troop train that traveled through North Platte and provide the military troops en route to serving their country in World War II with comforts from home;

Whereas, on December 25, 1941, the North Platte Canteen began serving food and other items to the United States military troops traveling across the United States to either the east or west coast before being shipped overseas;

Whereas, during World War II, the North Platte Canteen greeted and served food to approximately 6,000,000 men and women from every State in the Union;

Whereas individuals from 125 communities in Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas donated food and volunteered at the North Platte Canteen during the approximately 5-year period in which it operated;

Whereas the North Platte Canteen operated strictly with volunteers from local communities, organizations, churches, schools, and other groups, and without any Federal assistance;

Whereas the North Platte Canteen received \$137,000 in cash contributions from benefit dances, scrap-metal drives, school victory clubs, donation cans in local businesses,

and relatives of servicemembers who traveled through the Canteen to help maintain the Canteen's operations for about 5 years;

Whereas the North Platte Canteen served each month about 40,000 homemade cookies, 30,000 hard-boiled eggs, 6,500 doughnuts, 4,000 loaves of bread, 3,000 pounds of meat, 450 pounds of cheese, 60 quarts of peanut butter, 1,350 pounds of coffee, 1,200 quarts of cream, 750 dozen rolls, and 600 birthday cakes; and

Whereas the North Platte Canteen was honored by the United States Army with the presentation of the Meritorious Wartime Service Award by the Secretary of War: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the outstanding efforts of the in-
4 dividuals and communities involved with the North
5 Platte Canteen to dispense food and good cheer to
6 the approximately 6,000,000 members of the United
7 States Armed Forces who traveled on troop trains
8 through North Platte, Nebraska, from December 25,
9 1941, through April 1, 1946, during World War II;
10 and

11 (2) requests the President to issue a proclama-
12 tion recognizing the heroic efforts of those patriotic
13 Americans who made enormous sacrifices to make
14 the North Platte Canteen a successful expression of
15 the warmth and caring of home for soldiers, sailors,

1 airmen, and Marines of our Nation making their
2 way to war.

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