

110TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1136

Honoring and expressing gratitude to the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion
("Triple Nickles") of the United States Army.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2008

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia submitted the following resolution; which was
referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Honoring and expressing gratitude to the 555th Parachute
Infantry Battalion ("Triple Nickles") of the United
States Army.

Whereas in December 1942, the Advisory Committee on
Negro Troop Policies recommended the establishment of
an African-American parachute battalion;

Whereas on February 25, 1943, Army Chief of Staff General
George C. Marshall directed that the 555th Parachute
Infantry Company be constituted;

Whereas on December 19, 1943, the headquarters of Army
Ground Forces authorized the activation of the company
as an all-black unit with black officers as well as black
enlisted men;

Whereas all members of the unit were to be volunteers, with an enlisted cadre to be selected from personnel of the 92d Infantry Division;

Whereas the company was officially activated on December 30, 1943, at Fort Benning, Georgia;

Whereas, after several months of training, the unit moved to Camp Mackall, North Carolina, where it was reorganized and redesignated on November 25, 1944, as Company A of the newly-activated 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion;

Whereas in May 1945, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was sent to the west coast of the United States to combat forest fires ignited by Japanese balloons carrying incendiary bombs;

Whereas, while stationed at Pendleton Field, Oregon, with a detachment in Chico, California, unit members courageously participated in dangerous fire-fighting missions throughout the Pacific Northwest during the summer and fall of 1945, earning the nickname “Smoke Jumpers” in addition to “Triple Nickles”;

Whereas, after nearly five years of honorable service to the United States, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was disbanded on December 9, 1947, and became the 3rd Battalion, 505 Airborne Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division; and

Whereas the United States will be forever indebted to the soldiers of the first all African-American Parachute Infantry Battalion and their families for their sacrifices and their contributions to the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors
2 and expresses gratitude for the service and sacrifices of

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1 the members of the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion
2 and their families upon the 65th anniversary of the unit's
3 activation.

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