

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY HORBACH

A Concurrent Resolution to honor the Meskwaki tribe members who served as Code Talkers in North Africa during World War II and to request that Congress and the President of the United States honor all Code Talkers who served in the United States armed forces.

WHEREAS, the languages of several Native American tribes were developed for use as code during both World War I and World War II and members of at least 18 tribes participated in the transmission of vital information regarding the location of enemy troops and numbers of enemy guns; and

WHEREAS, this code was never broken and the Native American Code Talkers who transmitted the messages are credited with saving the lives of countless numbers of American soldiers; and

WHEREAS, these Code Talkers worked under terrible conditions, taking extreme risks to provide the necessary military information for our military forces and sworn to secrecy in the event they were captured; and

WHEREAS, eight members of the Meskwaki tribe from Tama County, including Frank Sanache, his brother Willard Sanache, Dewey Youngbear, Edward Benson, Judy Wayne Wabaunasee, Mike Wayne Wabaunasee, Dewey Roberts, and Melvin Twin, served as scouts and Code Talkers for eight companies of their division in North Africa during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the only surviving member of those eight

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1 Meskwaki soldiers, Frank Sanache, endured terrible  
2 hardships both while stationed in North Africa and  
3 after being captured by the Germans and held prisoner  
4 in a Polish internment camp; and

5 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in 2000  
6 authorizing the issuance of Congressional Medals of  
7 Honor to recognize the service of the Navajo Code  
8 Talkers, which were presented by the President of the  
9 United States in July of 2001, but members of other  
10 tribes, such as Frank Sanache and the other Meskwaki  
11 Code Talkers, did not receive the same recognition;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the valiant  
14 efforts of all Native American Code Talkers be  
15 recognized and honored; NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
17 SENATE CONCURRING, That the Iowa General Assembly  
18 recognizes the bravery and dedicated service of the  
19 Meskwaki Code Talkers and expresses gratitude for the  
20 contribution these soldiers made to saving many  
21 American lives; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa General  
23 Assembly requests and encourages Congress and the  
24 President of the United States to recognize the  
25 contributions, bravery, and dedicated service of all  
26 Code Talkers, including the eight soldiers from the  
27 Meskwaki tribe, in the same manner as the Navajo Code  
28 Talkers by awarding them the appropriate medals of  
29 honor; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, copies

1 of this Resolution be sent to the Majority and  
2 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the  
3 Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the  
4 United States House of Representatives, to the members  
5 of the Iowa congressional delegation, and to the  
6 President of the United States; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, copies  
8 of this Resolution be sent to Frank Sanache and to the  
9 families of the other Meskwaki tribe members who  
10 served as Code Talkers in World War II.

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