

Senate Concurrent Resolution 109

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1 1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. ____
1 2 BY PUTNEY
1 3 A Concurrent Resolution to honor the Meskwaki tribe
1 4 members who served as Code Talkers in North Africa
1 5 during World War II and to request that Congress and
1 6 the President of the United States honor all Code
1 7 Talkers who served in the United States armed forces.
1 8 WHEREAS, the languages of several Native American
1 9 tribes were developed for use as code during both
1 10 World War I and World War II and members of at least
1 11 18 tribes participated in the transmission of vital
1 12 information regarding the location of enemy troops and
1 13 numbers of enemy guns; and
1 14 WHEREAS, this code was never broken and the Native
1 15 American Code Talkers who transmitted the messages are
1 16 credited with saving the lives of countless numbers of
1 17 American soldiers; and
1 18 WHEREAS, these Code Talkers worked under terrible
1 19 conditions, taking extreme risks to provide the
1 20 necessary military information for our military forces
1 21 and sworn to secrecy in the event they were captured;
1 22 and
1 23 WHEREAS, eight members of the Meskwaki tribe from
1 24 Tama County, including Frank Sanache, his brother
1 25 Willard Sanache, Dewey Youngbear, Edward Benson, Judie
1 26 Wayne Wabaunasee, Mike Wayne Wabaunasee, Dewey
1 27 Roberts, and Melvin Twin, served as scouts and Code
1 28 Talkers for eight companies of their division in North
1 29 Africa during World War II; and
1 30 WHEREAS, the only surviving member of those eight
2 1 Meskwaki soldiers, Frank Sanache, endured terrible
2 2 hardships both while stationed in North Africa and
2 3 after being captured by the Germans and held prisoner
2 4 in a Polish internment camp; and
2 5 WHEREAS, Congress passed legislation in 2000
2 6 authorizing the issuance of Congressional Medals of
2 7 Honor to recognize the service of the Navajo Code
2 8 Talkers, which were presented by the President of the
2 9 United States in July of 2001, but members of other
2 10 tribes, such as Frank Sanache and the other Meskwaki
2 11 Code Talkers, did not receive the same recognition;
2 12 and
2 13 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the valiant
2 14 efforts of all Native American Code Talkers be
2 15 recognized and honored; NOW THEREFORE,
2 16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
2 17 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Iowa General
2 18 Assembly recognizes the bravery and dedicated service
2 19 of the Meskwaki Code Talkers and expresses gratitude
2 20 for the contribution these soldiers made to saving
2 21 many American lives; and
2 22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Iowa General
2 23 Assembly requests and encourages Congress and the
2 24 President of the United States to recognize the
2 25 contributions, bravery, and dedicated service of all
2 26 Code Talkers, including the eight soldiers from the
2 27 Meskwaki tribe, in the same manner as the Navajo Code
2 28 Talkers by awarding them the appropriate medals of
2 29 honor; and
2 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, copies
3 1 of this Resolution be sent to the Majority and
3 2 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the
3 3 Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the
3 4 United States House of Representatives, to the members
3 5 of the Iowa congressional delegation, and to the
3 6 President of the United States; and
3 7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon adoption, copies
3 8 of this Resolution be sent to Frank Sanache and to the
3 9 families of the other Meskwaki tribe members who
3 10 served as Code Talkers in World War II.
3 11 SCR 109
3 12 lh/cc/26