

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY PUTNEY

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

6 WHEREAS, the languages of several Native American
7 tribes were developed for use as code during both
8 World War I and World War II and members of at least
9 18 tribes participated in the transmission of vital
10 information regarding the location of enemy troops and
11 numbers of enemy guns; and

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, the only surviving member of those eight
29

SCR 109
RULES & ADMINISTRATION

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 SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Iowa General
18 Assembly recognizes the bravery and dedicated service
19 of the Meskwaki Code Talkers and expresses gratitude
20 for the contribution these soldiers made to saving
21 many 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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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 109

S-5119

1 Amend Senate Concurrent Resolution 109 as follows:
2 1. Page 1, line 25, by striking the word "Judy"
3 and inserting the following: "Judie".

By JOHN PUTNEY

S-5119 FILED MARCH 22, 2004

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