

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 135

Expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 2, 2019

Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and valor by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending those individuals for leadership and bravery in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

Whereas June 6, 2019, marks the 75th anniversary of the Allied assault at Normandy, France, by troops of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Free France, known as “Operation Overlord”;

Whereas, before Operation Overlord, the German Army still occupied France and the Nazi government still had ac-

cess to the raw materials and industrial capacity of Western Europe;

Whereas the naval phase of the Allied assault at Normandy was codenamed “Neptune”, and the date of June 6, 1944, is referred to as “D-Day” to denote the day on which the combat attack was initiated;

Whereas the D-Day landing was the largest single amphibious assault in history, consisting of—

(1) approximately 57,000 members of the United States Armed Forces;

(2) approximately 153,000 members of the Allied Expeditionary Force;

(3) approximately 5,000 naval vessels; and

(4) more than 11,000 sorties by Allied aircraft;

Whereas soldiers of 6 divisions (3 from the United States, 2 from the United Kingdom, which included troops of Free France, and 1 from Canada) stormed ashore in 5 main landing areas on beaches in Normandy, which were codenamed “Utah”, “Omaha”, “Gold”, “Juno”, and “Sword”;

Whereas, of the approximately 10,000 Allied casualties incurred on the first day of the landing, more than 6,000 were members of the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the Allied assault and following operations were supported by ships, aircraft, and troops from Australia, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Free Norway, Greece, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the Polish Armed Forces in the West;

Whereas the advanced age of the last remaining veterans of, and the gradual disappearance of any living memory of, World War II and the Normandy landings make it nec-

essary to increase activities intended to pass on the history of those events, particularly to younger generations;

Whereas the young people of Normandy and the United States have displayed unprecedented commitment to, and involvement in, celebrating—

- (1) the veterans of the Normandy landings; and
- (2) the freedom brought by those veterans in 1944;

Whereas the significant material remains of the Normandy landings found on the Normandy beaches and at the bottom of the sea in the territorial waters of France, such as shipwrecks and various items of military equipment, bear witness to the remarkable and unique nature of the material resources used by the Allied forces to execute the Normandy landings;

Whereas 5 Normandy beaches and a number of sites on the Normandy coast, including Pointe du Hoc, were the scene of the D-Day landings and constitute, and will for all time constitute—

- (1) a unique piece of world heritage; and
- (2) a symbol of peace and freedom, the unspoilt nature, integrity, and authenticity of which must be protected at all costs; and

Whereas the world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the “Greatest Generation” who assumed the task of freeing the world from Nazi and Fascist regimes and restoring liberty to Europe: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

- 2 (1) recognizes the 75th anniversary of the am-
- 3 phibious landing of the Allies on D-Day, June 6,
- 4 1944, at Normandy, France, during World War II;

1 (2) expresses gratitude and appreciation to the
2 members of the United States Armed Forces who
3 participated in the D-Day operations;

4 (3) thanks the young people of Normandy and
5 the United States for their involvement in events
6 celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Normandy
7 landings with the aim of making future generations
8 aware of the acts of heroism and sacrifice performed
9 by the Allied forces;

10 (4) recognizes the efforts of France and the
11 people of Normandy to preserve for future genera-
12 tions the unique world heritage represented by the
13 Normandy beaches and the sunken material remains
14 of the Normandy landings by inscribing those beach-
15 es and remains on the United Nations Educational,
16 Scientific and Cultural Organization (commonly re-
17 ferred to as “UNESCO”) World Heritage List; and

18 (5) requests that the President issue a procla-
19 mation calling on the people of the United States to
20 observe the 75th anniversary of the Normandy land-
21 ings with appropriate ceremonies and programs to
22 honor the sacrifices made by their fellow countrymen
23 to liberate Europe.

○