

108TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 439

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2004

Received and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concurrent resolution honoring the members of the Army Motor Transport Brigade who during World War II served in the trucking operation known as the Red Ball Express for their service and contribution to the Allied advance following the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.

Whereas June 6, 2004, the 60th anniversary of the World War II D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, was observed by Americans with numerous commemorations of the sacrifices of those who fought to preserve the liberty and freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas commemoration of those sacrifices and the recollection of those who served should include all who served, including those who performed critical logistics functions;

Whereas after the breakout from the beachheads at Normandy following the D-Day landings, Allied forces began a rapid advance across France, with the result that advancing units in many cases began to outrun their supplies of fuel, food, and ammunition;

Whereas on August 21, 1944, in response to the need for resupply of rapidly advancing forces, the Army Motor Transportation Service created a trucking operation called the Red Ball Express which began operations on August 25, 1944;

Whereas the Red Ball Express was a massive convoy effort to speed supplies to the Allied armies advancing across France;

Whereas the convoy system stretched from Normandy to Paris and eventually to the front in the northeastern borderland of France;

Whereas by ensuring that United States and other Allied soldiers were properly resupplied, the Red Ball Express played a major role in the defeat of Nazi Germany;

Whereas members of the Red Ball Express persevered through arduous driving conditions and constant threats of ground and aerial ambushes and performed their duties with precision and efficiency;

Whereas the Red Ball Express was in operation for 82 days and, by the time Red Ball Express operations were concluded in November 1944, Red Ball Express truckers had delivered over 410,000 tons of fuel, ammunition, food,

and other essential supplies for the Allied forces to succeed in Europe;

Whereas, during World War II, many commanders believed that African-Americans were not suitable for combat duties and relegated them to service, support, and supply missions;

Whereas the majority of Red Ball Express drivers were African-Americans;

Whereas the success of the Allied advance through France was made possible by the soldiers who drove the supply trucks; and

Whereas the members of the Army Motor Transport Brigade who participated in the Red Ball Express contributed unselfishly to the war effort despite the indignities and double standards that they endured: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That Congress honors the members of the
 3 Army Motor Transport Brigade who during World War
 4 II served in the trucking operation known as the Red Ball
 5 Express for their service and contribution to the Allied ad-
 6 vance following the D-Day invasion in Normandy, France.

Passed the House of Representatives June 14, 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

Clerk.