

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 471

Commending the efforts of the women of the American Red Cross Clubmobiles for exemplary service during the Second World War.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2012

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. BOXER, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Commending the efforts of the women of the American Red Cross Clubmobiles for exemplary service during the Second World War.

Whereas, during the Second World War, the American Red Cross was charged by the United States Armed Forces with providing recreational services to the soldiers serving in the war;

Whereas Harvey Gibson, the Red Cross Commissioner to Great Britain during the war, conceived of the Clubmobiles in 1942 as a means of providing hot coffee, fresh doughnuts, and a vital connection to home to thousands of servicemen at dozens of airfields, bases, and

camps throughout Great Britain during the buildup to D-Day;

Whereas thousands of young women, from every State in the United States, volunteered to serve in the Clubmobiles, and were chosen after a rigorous interview process in which less than 20 percent of applicants were selected;

Whereas, less than 1 month after the invasion of Normandy, France in June 1944, 80 Clubmobiles and 320 American Red Cross volunteers crossed the English Channel and began providing coffee, doughnuts, and a friendly smile to servicemen fighting on the front lines;

Whereas the Clubmobile volunteers saw service across Europe in France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, and Germany, and later in the Far East, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of United States servicemen until victory was achieved;

Whereas, during the war, the American Red Cross purchased enough flour to produce more than 1,500,000,000 doughnuts, many served from the windows of a Clubmobile;

Whereas a visit from a Clubmobile, which could serve gallons of coffee and hundreds of doughnuts every minute, was often the most significant morale boost available to servicemen at war;

Whereas 52 women of the American Red Cross, some of whom served on the Clubmobiles, perished during the war as a result of their service; and

Whereas 70 years have passed since the Clubmobiles were founded, and only a few women who served in the Clubmobiles remain to share their stories: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) commends the exemplary and courageous
2 service and sacrifice of each of the patriotic women
3 of the United States who served in the American
4 Red Cross Clubmobiles during the Second World
5 War;

6 (2) honors the Clubmobile women who lost their
7 lives during the Second World War;

8 (3) calls upon historians of the Second World
9 War to recognize and describe the service of the
10 Clubmobiles, and to not let this important piece of
11 United States history be lost; and

12 (4) urges the American Red Cross to publicly
13 commemorate the stories of the Clubmobiles and the
14 amazing women who served in them.

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