

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 317

Expressing the sense of the Senate to congratulate and thank the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Europe for forever changing the course of history by helping bring an end to World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 7 (legislative day, JUNE 6), 2000

Ms. LANDRIEU submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate to congratulate and thank the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, D-Day invasion of Europe for forever changing the course of history by helping bring an end to World War II.

Whereas General George C. Marshall, President Roosevelt's chief of staff, appointed General Dwight D. Eisenhower, to the war plans division of the United States Army in December 1941 and commissioned General Eisenhower to design an operational scheme for Allied victory in World War II;

Whereas in January 1943, the plan was adopted and given the code name Operation "Overlord";

Whereas the June 6, 1944, invasion of Europe, commonly known as “the D-Day invasion”, was the largest single assault in the most massive military conflict in history;

Whereas participants in that invasion included 156,000 British, Canadian, and United States servicemembers and approximately 30,000 vehicles and 600,000 tons of supplies, and those servicemembers, backed by paratroopers and bombers, stormed a 50-mile stretch of beach in Normandy, France;

Whereas on June 6, 1944, D-Day, and in the seven months that followed, approximately 3,500,000 British, Canadian, and United States servicemembers embarked for Europe from Southampton, England;

Whereas approximately 31,000 United States servicemembers and more than 3,000 vehicles embarked for the D-Day invasion on 208 vessels at Weymouth and Portland, England;

Whereas between 15,000 and 20,000 tons of bombs were dropped in support of the D-Day invasion in the 24 hours between the night of June 5 and the night of June 6, 1944;

Whereas landing forces in the D-Day invasion were compelled to cross more than 200 yards of treacherous beach blanketed by mines, heavy machine-gun fire, and rifle fire;

Whereas the D-Day invasion was supported by more than 13,000 fighter, bomber, and transport aircraft, against which the German Air Force, the Luftwaffe, was able to deploy fewer than 400 aircraft of all types;

Whereas by June 11, 1944, the invasion force had established a bridgehead 50 miles wide and 12 miles deep, into which

were landed 326,547 men, 54,186 vehicles, and 104,428 tons of supplies;

Whereas of the 156,000 British, Canadian, and United States servicemembers who took part in the initial D-Day invasion landings, 10,000 were casualties on the first day of the invasion;

Whereas total United States casualties on D-Day numbered 6,303, including 2,499 casualties among members of two airborne divisions participating in the invasion;

Whereas those casualties included 1,465 killed in action, 3,184 wounded in action, 1,928 missing in action, and 26 prisoners of war;

Whereas the success of the D-Day invasion was responsible for starting the liberation of occupied Europe from Nazi Germany and marked the beginning of the end of World War II; and

Whereas of the approximately living 25,000,000 United States veterans, approximately 1,500 die each day of whom two-thirds are veterans of World War II: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate to con-
 2 gratulate and thank the members of the United States
 3 Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, D-
 4 Day invasion of Europe for forever changing the course
 5 of history by helping bring an end to World War II.

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