

Recent historical research has uncovered evidence of over 250 soldiers of Asian and Pacific Islander descent who served in the Union and Confederate forces during the United States Civil War.

I have introduced H. Res. 415 to recognize and honor Edward Day Cohota and Joseph L. Pierce, as well as the numerous others veterans of API descent who bravely fought in the United States Civil War. These two men, both of Chinese ancestry, are explicitly named in this resolution as the most-documented and researched veterans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in the U.S. Civil War.

In comparison to the total population in the United States, a disproportionately high percentage of soldiers of API descent are listed on both the Union and Confederate rosters. By volunteering to serve in the Armed Forces of their adopted homeland, they risked their lives and declared their allegiances as vigorously as any other community.

Instead of honoring and recognizing their service, our country denied these veterans the ability to naturalize through the bigoted laws enacted during this period.

I believe that for their contribution to our Nation's history, and the injustices done to them despite their patriotism, veterans of API descent who fought in the U.S. Civil War are worthy of recognition by the United States House of Representatives.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, without whose efforts this resolution would not be possible. In their own words, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance has been "committed to achieving passage of this resolution because national historic recognition was the least our country could do posthumously for an important, special group of unsung heroes." The Chinese American Citizens Alliance has worked arduously on behalf of these veterans and their families for years, and their work pays off today as the House considers this resolution.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I am pleased that this resolution is on the floor today. The families of these veterans and community supporters have waited a very long time for these brave soldiers to be honored by our government, and I urge my colleagues to support this small effort to recognize the contributions made by Asian Pacific Islander Civil War soldiers.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, at this time, I have no further speakers and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TSONGAS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 415, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE USS "FARENHOLT" IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC DURING WORLD WAR II

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1248) recognizing the service of the USS *Farenholt* and her men who served our Nation with valor and bravery in the South Pacific during World War II, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1248

Whereas the USS *Farenholt* (DD 491) was launched on November 19, 1941, by Bethlehem Steel Company in Staten Island, New York, and commissioned on April 2, 1942, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard;

Whereas the *Farenholt*, a 1620-ton Benson-class destroyer, sailed from San Diego on July 1, 1942, for the Pacific;

Whereas the *Farenholt*, known as the "Fightin' F", participated in the invasion of Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942, which marked the first American land offensive of the war;

Whereas the *Farenholt*, a flagship for Destroyer Squadron 12, served as an escort for the carrier, the USS *Wasp*, which on September 15, 1942, was attacked by two enemy submarines;

Whereas, as the *Wasp* sunk, the *Farenholt* rescued 143 survivors;

Whereas the *Farenholt*, during the Battle of Cape Esperance on the night of October 11, 1942, exhibited tactical might by joining an American force that successfully intercepted and defeated enemy destroyers and cruisers;

Whereas, during the Battle of Cape Esperance, the *Farenholt* helped to sink an enemy destroyer, despite having received three hits and having her torpedo tube rendered inoperative, which left three of the *Farenholt's* crew dead and 43 wounded;

Whereas, during the Battle of Cape Esperance, the *Farenholt* remained afloat despite the amount of water that flooded aboard the ship due to the severe damage inflicted by the three hits;

Whereas the crew saved the *Farenholt* from sinking by shifting oil, water, and top-side weight to starboard, thus bringing the holes created by direct shell hits out of the water and saving the *Farenholt* so she could fight another day;

Whereas on the night of February 17, 1944, the *Farenholt* steamed up the St. George Channel and bombarded Rabaul, Solomon Islands, a stronghold of the enemy;

Whereas Rabaul was heavily fortified and hosted approximately 100,000 enemy troops;

Whereas during the Rabaul raid, the *Farenholt* fired 214 salvos and inflicted heavy damage on shore installations at Rabaul and sunk two merchant ships;

Whereas General MacArthur said of the February Rabaul raid, "Heartiest congratulations to you and all concerned in Rabaul air strikes. The relentlessness of the attacks and their effectiveness have aroused admiration and enthusiasm everywhere. The daring and successful destroyer raids were also splendid in every way and were conceived

and accomplished in the best Farragut manner";

Whereas one week later, on February 25, 1944, the *Farenholt* participated in a similar raid, this time at Kavieng which drew heavy fire from the shore, and the *Farenholt* was damaged on the starboard side and, once again, her men saved the ship;

Whereas the men of the *Farenholt* accounted for two Navy Cross awards, two members of the crew were awarded the Silver Star Medal, five members of the crew were awarded the Bronze Star Medal, eight members of the crew received Letters of Commendation, and approximately 46 Purple Hearts were awarded for the members of the crew who were killed or wounded in action;

Whereas the men of the *Farenholt* and their loving spouses, widows, and children celebrated their 16th reunion in Fort Collins, Colorado, in 2007, and will celebrate their 17th reunion in Santa Clara, California, on September 17, 2008 through September 21, 2008; and

Whereas the men of the *Farenholt* represent the bravery and selfless sacrifice of the greatest generation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes and commends the courageous and honorable men who served aboard the USS *Farenholt* in the South Pacific during World War II for their selfless service to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the contributions of the USS *Farenholt* and her crew in protecting America and its freedoms during World War II.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) and the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1248, which honors the crew of the USS *Farenholt* for their brave service in the South Pacific during the Second World War. I would like to thank my colleague from Colorado, Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave, who introduced this resolution with me.

A 1,620-ton Benson-class destroyer, the USS *Farenholt*, affectionately known as "the Fightin' F," was launched from Staten Island, New York, on November 19, 1941. The *Farenholt* sailed for the Pacific in July of 1942, participating in the invasion of Guadalcanal as the flagship for Destroyer Squadron 12 and escort for the carrier USS *Wasp*. On September 15, 1942, when the *Wasp* was surprised and sunk by two Japanese submarines, the *Farenholt* rescued 143 of the survivors.

The *Farenholt's* greatest test came the following month in the Battle of Cape Esperance, when the ship helped

intercept a Japanese force of cruisers and destroyers attempting to bombard Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. The *Farenholt* performed admirably, sinking an enemy destroyer despite taking heavy casualties from three direct hits from enemy fire. The brave crew managed to keep their ship afloat by shifting topside weight to the starboard, thereby lifting the shell holes out of the water. Thanks to the dedication and ingenuity of her crew, the *Farenholt* lived to fight another day.

In fact, she spent the next 2 years crisscrossing the South Pacific, providing cover for landings, escorting convoys, and rescuing downed pilots.

Her crew once again proved their courage on the night of February 17, 1944, when they launched a daring dash through the St. George Canal in the Solomon Islands to attack the Japanese stronghold at Rabaul. They managed to sink two enemy merchant ships in the process, and General Douglas MacArthur wrote that the raids on Rabaul were "splendid in every way and were conceived and accomplished in the best Farragut manner."

The sailors of the USS *Farenholt* were awarded two Navy Crosses, two Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars, eight Letters of Commendation, and 46 Purple Hearts for their service and sacrifice to our country.

Madam Speaker, I would like to acknowledge a constituent of mine, Gene Fithian of Newburgh, Indiana. Last year, I met with Gene in my office in Evansville, and he shared stories about the *Farenholt* and his shipmates. Gene put my staff in touch with other men who served aboard the *Farenholt*, and this resolution would not have been possible without their valuable input. Thank you, Mr. Fithian.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation that we honor the men of the *Farenholt* and their loving spouses, widows, and children. They are part of our "Greatest Generation," and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in honoring their sacrifices.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1248, which recognizes the service of the destroyer USS *Farenholt* and her men who served our great Nation with bravery in the South Pacific during World War II.

The USS *Farenholt* was commissioned on April 2, 1942 at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The destroyer sailed from San Diego, California on July 1, 1942 for the Pacific.

Also known as the Fightin' F, she participated in the United States' first land offensive of World War II, the August 1942 invasion of Guadalcanal. The next month, *Farenholt* also served as an escort for the aircraft carrier USS *Wasp*, which was attacked by two

enemy submarines. When the *Wasp* sank, the *Farenholt* rescued 143 of her survivors.

The Fightin' F fought in the battle of Cape Esperance in October 1942, and joined the American force that intercepted and defeated Japanese destroyers and cruisers. During the fight, the *Farenholt* suffered 46 casualties and severe damage from three direct hits. Despite this, her crew kept her from sinking, and she joined in the February 1944 destroyer raid on the Japanese stronghold at New Guinea where she sank two merchant ships. That raid earned very high praises from General Douglas MacArthur.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. ELLSWORTH of Indiana, for introducing this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to recognize these brave and dedicated men of the USS *Farenholt* by supporting House Resolution 1248.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I also reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. MUSGRAVE).

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues. It's truly an honor to stand here tonight and pay gratitude to our World War II veterans. I was very proud to cosponsor this resolution honoring the USS *Farenholt* and her crew.

Radarman 1st Class Kenneth S. Buffington served on the *Farenholt* from 1942 to 1945. Kenneth was born and raised in Nebraska, and he lived on his family's farm until he joined the United States Navy. After the war, he became a plumber, and he has called Fort Collins, Colorado his home for the last 55 years. He will celebrate his 89th birthday in September.

Kenneth fought 11 battles aboard the *Farenholt*. The destroyer endured 12 credited engagements from Guadalcanal to Okinawa. When at battle stations, Kenneth helped man the guns to help defend his ship and crew mates and to ensure that the Fightin' F could engage the enemy on another day.

The *Farenholt's* accomplishments are many, as my colleagues have mentioned, including the repelling of Japanese air attacks, the bombardment of enemy positions, the supporting of carrier raids, and the performing of rescue operations as well as that of escort and patrol duty. In battle, the crewmen were often stretched to their limits, remaining at battle stations around the clock, sleeping little but doing their duty. The crew of the *Farenholt* suffered casualties, but they always fought courageously and greatly contributed to the success of the operations in which they took part.

Twice, the *Farenholt* was badly damaged by gunfire and by shell fire, but she survived to celebrate V-J Day, and was decommissioned in April of 1946.

It is my great privilege to represent Kenneth Buffington and his family, and

I am proud to honor the USS *Farenholt*, her crew and all of our World War II veterans and their families.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank the gentle lady from Virginia.

At this time, I have no further requests for time, and I'm prepared to close after my colleague has yielded back.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I have no additional speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1248, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "Resolution recognizing the service of the USS *Farenholt* and her crew who served the United States with valor and bravery in the South Pacific during World War II."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LANDING SHIP TANK VETERANS

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1316) honoring the service of the Navy and Coast Guard veterans who served on the Landing Ship Tank (LST) amphibious landing craft during World War II, the Korean war, the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and global operations through 2002 and recognizing the essential role played by LST amphibious craft during these conflicts.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1316

Whereas the Landing Ship Tank (LST) was the military designation for naval vessels created during World War II to support amphibious operations by carrying significant quantities of vehicles, cargo, and landing troops directly onto an unimproved shore;

Whereas the British evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940 demonstrated to the British Admiralty that the Allied Forces needed relatively large, ocean-going ships, capable of the shore-to-shore delivery of tanks, other vehicles, and troops for amphibious assault upon the continent of Europe;

Whereas at their first meeting at the Atlantic Conference in August 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill agreed with the Admiralty about the need for improved ships that could land on and retract off a beach;

Whereas in 3 separate acts, dated February 6, 1942, May 26, 1943, and December 17, 1943, Congress provided the authority for the construction of LSTs;

Whereas 1,051 LST amphibious craft were constructed during World War II;