

After the fall of the Alamo, word began to spread like wildfire across the territory. The horrific tales of the massacre at Goliad had proven that Santa Anna and his army would show no mercy, even for the women and children. While many families had already begun to flee as early as January 1836, the March 6 slaughter prompted widespread terror and the historic Runaway Scrape began.

Families wasted no time in gathering essentials and setting out towards the Sabine River and into the safe haven of Louisiana or Galveston Island. Many families left with food on the table, clothes on the line, and ran for their lives with little more than the clothes on their back. Most of the treacherous journey was led by women with their small children, as only the elderly and boys deemed by their mamas as too young to fight were still at home.

General Sam Houston and his boys were on the eastward move as well. By early April, Washington-on-the-Brazos was deserted and as General Sam marched on towards the Sabine, there was rarely a sole left behind him. With these areas unprotected, Texans that stayed behind faced certain death as Santa Anna pressed forward—if the Indians didn't get there first.

The only solace that the runaways had was that General Sam was between them and death. At the last meeting in the Alamo, Travis said: "If we hold the Alamo, it is a deed well done! If we fall with it, it is still a deed well done! We pledge our lives to give Houston and Fannin time to get between Santa Anna and the settlements!"

A deed well done indeed. But assured as they were that General Sam was bringing up the rear, they were faced with another unforeseen obstacle—the always unpredictable Texas weather. The cold and rainy spring wreaked havoc along the Runaway Scrape. The runways lacked the bare essentials of survival and many, mostly children, succumbed to the cold, disease and hunger.

I often talk about the heroes of our independence, but no finer example of heroics was displayed than on this historic exodus. This was the harshest journey of our fight for independence and it was only made possible by the sheer will and determination of the remarkable women that led the way.

There are countless stories of women who cared for the sick and diseased, sacrificed for the hungry, buried the dead, including their own children, and kept pressing on—never giving up. They were relentless in their mission and just as much a part of our independence as were their counterparts. As my grandmother always said, there is nothing more powerful than a woman that has made up her mind. And these women, these mothers of freedom, had made up their mind.

General Thomas Jefferson Rusk understood Texas women well: "The men of Texas deserved much credit, but more was due the women. Armed men facing a foe could not but be brave; but the women, with their little children around them, without means of defense or power to resist, faced danger and death with unflinching courage."

One such story recounts how one mother strapped a feather mattress to the back of a horse, tied her three young children on and led that horse by foot while carrying a baby on her hip. This was a prettier picture than most. As food and supplies were sparse, they also couldn't afford to have anything extra weigh

them down. The muddled trails to safety were littered with feathers from mattresses and discarded items too burdensome to carry.

As far as the eye could see, this was the scene along the Runaway Scrape. Most were starving, sick, and barely clothed. Make-shift graves lined the way and areas of high ground offered the only reprieve from the mud-soaked misery.

As General Sam and the boys crossed the San Jacinto, many of the runaways a step ahead faced a rising Trinity River to the east. The flooded waterway and river-bottoms forced them to seek shelter in the Liberty and Dayton settlements. Today, a historical marker along Highway 90 recognizes this historical part of our Texas history.

On the afternoon of April 21, 1836, the runaways taking refuge along the banks of the Trinity heard the faint sounds of cannon fire in the distance. Fearing the worst, the runaways wasted no time in ferrying the river and making their escape. Little did they know at the time, but General Sam and his rag-tag bunch of freedom fighters whipped a vastly larger Mexican army that was caught napping, captured Santa Anna and a new Republic of Texas was won.

Just as terror and panic had raged throughout the land, the news of victory and independence did as well. The cries from the battlefield: "Remember the Alamo!" "Remember Goliad!" were echoed along the now abandoned Runaway Scrape and met with: "San Jacinto!" "San Jacinto!"

Texas—one and indivisible.  
And that's just the way it is.

#### HONORING CITY OF MADEIRA, OHIO

#### HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of the city of Madeira. Like most of Hamilton County, Madeira was part of the 248,000 acres of land that comprised the "Symmes Purchase" in the late 1700s.

The growth, history, and development of the Madeira was shaped by the completion of a rail line extension and the opening of a freight office in the heart of downtown Madeira in 1866. The Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad named the stop after its treasurer and local landowner, John Madeira. This freight station still stands and is home to Choo-Choo's Restaurant.

In 1910, Madeira was home to 500 residents and was incorporated as a village. Samuel K. Druce was the first Mayor, and the village council held its first meeting on August 10th of that same year.

By 1959, the Village of Madeira had grown to 6,500 and became a city. It adopted a charter form of government. In 1970, Madeira doubled in size and filled out its current geographical boundaries when the South Kenwood area was annexed.

Today, Madeira is home to more than 9,250 residents. Its vibrant downtown area is home to countless niche businesses, including fine dining and shopping. Its schools have earned an "Excellent" rating on the State Report Card

for 10 consecutive years, including the highest ranking of "Excellent with Distinction" in 2009. And in 2007, the Madeira City School District was awarded a Silver Medal by U.S. News and World Report, recognizing the high school as one of the best in the country.

Over the past 100 years, the city of Madeira has become one of the finest suburban communities in the Cincinnati region. It truly lives up to its motto, "Oppidum Amicum"—friendly town. Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating this historic milestone and wish the city of Madeira continued success.

#### ALAMANCE CHRISTIAN WINS IT ALL

#### HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to extend our congratulations to the Alamance Christian School's boys basketball team for winning its second State championship in 3 years. This team not only won the North Carolina Christian School Association 3A State championship, but they also broke a school record for wins in a season with 25.

Alamance Christian defeated Gospel Light 61–55 in overtime last month. The championship game featured resilience and a determination to win. With the game in overtime, Blake Marley made a clutch 3-point shot, while his teammates Will Shepherd and Brandyn Burns also came through for the team by excelling at the free throw line. The championship game win, as well as their phenomenal record, required great skill and athleticism, but Head Coach Jerry Bailey pointed to the boys love and care for each other as the secret to their success.

The championship team members are: Brandyn Burns, Jonathan Racke, Bud Hursey, Will Shepherd, Benton Tuck, Tyler VanNostrand, Anthony Winston, Thomas Klarr, Blake Marley, Kevin Avery, Philip Barker, Alan Barker, Cole Johnson, and Ethan Massey. The coaching staff was led by Coach Bailey and his able assistants Josh Howard and Brad Prentice.

Again on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we would like to congratulate the Alamance Christian School boys basketball team, the faculty, staff, students, and fans for an outstanding championship season. This team will be remembered in the history books for its record-breaking year and resilient win in the NCCSA championship game.

#### 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

#### HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Highland Township, Michigan on April 6, 2010.

On April 6, 1835, Highland Township held its first township meeting at a schoolhouse on

Jesse Tenny's farm. Since its founding, Highland Township has had a diverse history. Highland boasts a once-thriving cider, vinegar, and pickle industry and with the coming of railroads in Michigan, the unique Highland Station. More recently, Highland Township has constructed many resort cottages on area lakes. Also, due to the construction of highway M-59, residential and commercial development has grown in Highland Township.

Importantly, the residents of Highland Township have played an instrumental role in promoting and maintaining awareness of "Highland heritage" through their work with several historical and conservational groups such as the Highland Township Historical Society, Highland Land Conservancy, and Highland Beautification Committee.

Madam Speaker, as Highland Township celebrates its 175th anniversary, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring its residents and thanking them for their contributions to our community and our country.

# RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD ON THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORMANDY INVASION

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the members of the Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia National Guard on the occasion of the 66th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion and D-Day which will occur this June 6. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the service and sacrifice of the members of this National Guard unit.

The Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia National Guard unit was the only one from the United States to serve in the first wave of the Normandy Invasion on D-Day. Over 3,100 soldiers from this unit courageously served their country in Normandy, and there were 1,107 casualties in the invasion.

The 29th Infantry Division of the Virginia National Guard joined the 116th Infantry Regiment, also known as Virginia's "Stonewall Brigade," and the 111th Field Artillery Battalion in the assault on the Nazis on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. The Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment is still based in Winchester, Virginia, and continues to send its troops to serve their country in Afghanistan and Iraq. A new National Guard Army opened last year in Frederick County and was named in honor of Staff Sgt. Craig W. Cherry and Sgt. Bobby E. Beasley, two local National Guardsmen who lost their lives in Afghanistan in 2004.

I submit for the RECORD the text of a joint resolution passed in the Virginia General Assembly in February, honoring this heroic unit of the National Guard:

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 292

OFFERED FEBRUARY 16, 2010

Commending the 29th Infantry Division of the Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia National Guard and the Virginia communities represented in the Normandy Invasion on the 66th anniversary of D-Day.

Patrons—Sherwood, Abbitt, Abbott, Albo, Alexander, Anderson, Armstrong, Athey, BaCote, Barlow, Bell, Richard P., Bell, Robert B., Brink, Bulova, Byron, Carr, Carrico, Cleaveland, Cline, Cole, Comstock, Cosgrove, Cox, J.A., Cox, M.K., Crockett-Stark, Dance, Ebbin, Edmunds, Englin, Garrett, Gear, Gilbert, Greason, Griffith: Herring, Hope, Howell, A.T., Howell, W.J., Hugo, Iaquinto, Ingram, James, Janis, Joannou, Johnson, Jones, Keam, Kilgore, Knight, Kory, Landes, LeMunyon, Lewis, Lingamfelter, Lohr, Loupassi, Marshall, D.W., Marshall, R.G., Massie, May, McClellan, McQuinn, Merricks, Miller, J.H., Miller, P.J., Morefield, Morgan, Morrissey, Nixon, Nutter, O'Bannon, Oder, Orrock, Peace, Phillips, Plum, Pogge, Poindexter, Pollard, Purkey, Putney, Rust, Scott, E.T., Scott, J.M., Shuler, Sickles, Spruill, Stolle, Surovell, Tata, Torian, Toscano, Tyler, Villanueva, Ward, Ware, O., Ware, R.L., Watts and Wright

Whereas, June 6, 2010, is the 66th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion, commonly known as D-Day; this epic and decisive moment in World War II helped defeat Nazi rule in Europe and was the most massive military operation in world history; and

Whereas, the only National Guard division of the United States Army selected to participate in the initial assault on the coast of France was the 29th Infantry Division of the Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia National Guard; this division was assigned as its objective that beach sector designated Omaha, which because of the fierce resistance encountered there soon became known as "Bloody Omaha"; and

Whereas, Virginia's historic "Stonewall Brigade," the 116th Infantry Regiment, was chosen to be in the first wave at Omaha and, after a bloody battle on the beach, finally succeeded in taking the high ground above it, and thus secured a beachhead in France; when "the Longest Day" ended, the courageous regiment of over 3,100 soldiers had suffered 1,107 casualties; and

Whereas, joining the 116th Infantry Regiment in the assault was Virginia's 111th Field Artillery Battalion and other smaller units from the Virginia National Guard, all elements of the 29th Infantry Division. and

Whereas, the Virginia communities represented in the D-Day Invasion were:

## 116TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (STONEWALL BRIGADE)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company—Roanoke

Anti-Tank Platoon—Roanoke  
Medical Department Detachment—Staunton & Wytheville  
Service Company—Roanoke

Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion—Roanoke

Company A—Bedford  
Company B—Lynchburg  
Company C—Harrisonburg  
Company D—Roanoke

Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion—Altavista

Company E—Chase City  
Company F—South Boston  
Company G—Farmville  
Company H—Martinsville

Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion—Winchester

Company I—Winchester  
Company K—Charlottesville  
Company L—Staunton  
Company M—Emporia

29th Infantry Division Band (Virginia portion)—Roanoke

29th Signal Company—Norfolk

29th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop—Berryville

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 29th Infantry Division Artillery—Richmond

111TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (FIRST VIRGINIA ARTILLERY)

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery—Norfolk

Service Battery—Newport News  
Battery A—Richmond  
Battery B—Norfolk  
Battery C—Portsmouth

227TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION (FORMERLY 2ND BATTALION, 111TH FIELD ARTILLERY)

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery—Richmond

Service Battery—post mobilization organization—no Virginia community  
Battery A—Hampton  
Battery B—Richmond  
Battery C—Fredericksburg

Whereas, many brave individuals participated in the Normandy Invasion and all who worked so hard and fought so valiantly are honored as heroes; and

Whereas, General George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, helped plan the Allied invasion of France; he graduated from the Virginia Military Institute as First Captain of the Corps of Cadets in 1901; and

Whereas, a former commander of the 29th Infantry Division, Lieutenant General Leonard Gerow was promoted to command the V Corps (Fifth Corps), made up of the 1st and 29th Infantry Divisions, which were the first troops to land on Omaha Beach; he was a native of Petersburg and a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, Class of 1911; and

Whereas, on June 8, 1944, Technical Sergeant Frank D. Peregory of Charlottesville's Company K, from the 116th Infantry Regiment, single-handedly killed or captured over 25 enemy soldiers, earning the Congressional Medal of Honor, only to be killed in action six days later; and

Whereas, a graduate of The Citadel's Class of 1929 and a teacher and coach at Staunton Military Academy, Major Thomas D. Howie of Staunton's Company L, best known as "the Major of St Lo," was killed in action on July 17, 1944, while in command of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, during its final drive to capture the strategic city of Saint-Lô; and

Whereas, commander of the 111th Field Artillery Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Thornton L. Mullins of Richmond, after his unit lost all of its guns but one in the English Channel when its landing craft were either swamped or destroyed by enemy fire, was killed in action while leading a band of survivors and destroying several enemy positions; he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. Army's second highest award for valor; and

Whereas, today, the 116th Infantry Regiment and other Virginia National Guard units of soldiers and airmen maintain a proud tradition with troops deployed in harm's way in the War on Terrorism, such as the mobilization to Iraq of the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry on January 6, 2010, and two deployments to Afghanistan of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry accompanied by several Embedded Transition Teams drawn from across the Virginia Army Guard, including the 116th Infantry's Brigade Combat Team; and

Whereas, since the start of the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, nearly 10,000 men and women of the Virginia National Guard have served in one or both conflicts,