

**HJR230 ENROLLED**



1 HJR230  
2 LM88WAA-2  
3 By Representative Yarbrough  
4 RFD: RULES  
5 First Read: 25-Apr-24



## HJR230 Enrolled

1 Enrolled, An Act,

2 POSTHUMOUSLY COMMENDING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NOAH C.  
3 REEVES FOR SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY.

4

5 WHEREAS, on March 18, 2024, the Defense POW/MIA  
6 Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that United States Army  
7 Private First Class Noah C. "Pete" Reeves, killed during  
8 World War II, was accounted for on September 12, 2022, eight  
9 decades after a German officer handed over his  
10 identification tags; and

11 WHEREAS, U.S. Army Pfc. Reeves was reported killed in  
12 action on December 6, 1944, after a firefight between his  
13 battalion and heavily-armed German forces near the town of  
14 Vossenack, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, according to  
15 DPAA; Reeves was 26 years old when he died; and

16 WHEREAS, shortly after the firefight, both sides held  
17 a temporary truce along the Kall River Gorge to recover  
18 their wounded and dead; a German officer handed over Reeves'  
19 identification tags and pay book, attesting to both his  
20 death and recovery by German forces; members of his unit  
21 were not able to recover his body from the Germans before  
22 fighting resumed, and Pfc. Reeves' remains were not  
23 accounted for following the war; he was declared  
24 "non-recoverable" in 1951; and

25 WHEREAS; in 1948, a set of unidentified remains was  
26 discovered in the heavily wooded slope of the Kall Gorge by  
27 a German resident; AGRC personnel investigated and recovered  
28 the remains, but they were not able to scientifically



## HJR230 Enrolled

29 identify them; they were interred in 1949 in what would be  
30 named the Ardennes American Cemetery; many years later, in  
31 2021, based on research by a DPAA historian, it was  
32 determined that the unidentified remains could possibly  
33 belong to Reeves; they were then sent to the DPAA laboratory  
34 for identification; and

35 WHEREAS, to identify Reeves's remains, scientists  
36 from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as  
37 circumstantial evidence; additionally, scientists from the  
38 Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA  
39 and Y chromosome DNA analysis for positive identification;  
40 and

41 WHEREAS, Pfc. Pete Reeves was the son of Izoria Bell  
42 Reeves and J. E. Reeves; he was a Lawrence County resident  
43 who worked a farm near Moulton and never married; when he  
44 was 25 years old he learned that the government had  
45 instituted a draft and immediately drove into town to  
46 register; shortly thereafter, he was called on to serve his  
47 country; he was stationed at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, and Ft.  
48 Leonard Wood, Missouri, prior to being shipped out to  
49 Germany; and

50 WHEREAS, before he left, his family held a big  
51 reunion to see him off and wish him well; he was a beloved  
52 son, brother, uncle, and friend; Pfc. Reeves was known as a  
53 quiet man, standing about 5'8" tall with beautiful blue  
54 eyes; he was respected in his community, even at his young  
55 age; and

56 WHEREAS, the battle that Pfc. Pete Reeves was killed



## HJR230 Enrolled

57 in began on September 19, 1944, and ended on February 10,  
58 1945; just how many soldiers died is not known; there were  
59 some 10,000 German and 30,000 American dead in what is known  
60 as the longest single battle the United States Army has ever  
61 fought; and

62 WHEREAS, Pfc. Pete Reeves gave his all, not only  
63 defending our freedoms, but that of the citizens in another  
64 far away country, for the love of his fellow man; he  
65 continues to serve today; the stories and articles of his  
66 sacrifice encourage Veterans to know they will not be  
67 forgotten; that our nation has not given up on recovering  
68 the remains of our very own; they bring Veterans together in  
69 honoring him; all of these things imbue him even more deeply  
70 in our memories and make his sacrifice of even more value to  
71 our nation; now therefore,

72 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
73 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this Legislative Body  
74 recognizes, commends, and thanks United States Army Private  
75 First Class Noah C. Reeves posthumously for his service,  
76 dedication, and sacrifice to his community, the State of  
77 Alabama, and this great Nation.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
79 resolution be delivered to the family of Noah C. Reeves as a  
80 mere token of our immense gratitude and in recognition of  
81 his ultimate sacrifice.

