

HR231 INTRODUCED



1 HR231
2 NMUAJJ8-1
3 By Representative Yarbrough
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 25-Apr-24



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

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

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

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

WHEREAS; in 1948, a set of unidentified remains was discovered in the heavily wooded slope of the Kall Gorge by



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29 a German resident; AGRC personnel investigated and recovered
30 the remains, but they were not able to scientifically
31 identify them; they were interred in 1949 in what would be
32 named the Ardennes American Cemetery; many years later, in
33 2021, based on research by a DPAA historian, it was
34 determined that the unidentified remains could possibly
35 belong to Reeves; they were then sent to the DPAA laboratory
36 for identification; and

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

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

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



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57 age; and

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

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

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

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