

By: Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 37
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
2 MILITARY SERVICE OF DR. GEORGE REYNOLDS OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. George Marshall Reynolds finished dental
4 training at Loyola in New Orleans in May of 1941, and began a
5 dental practice in Jackson that summer which lasted only a few
6 months, because the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor intervened;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, he volunteered for active duty, but was told there
9 was no immediate need for his dental services, discovering that
10 had he shown up a few days earlier, he would have been quickly
11 signed up and on his way to participate in the United States
12 landing in North Africa; and

13 WHEREAS, instead, he spent almost three years in the South
14 Pacific and did not return home until January 1946: on August 25,
15 1942, he became a Captain, United States Army Medical Corps,
16 Dentist, and was sent to Macon, Georgia, then Spokane, Washington,
17 and Great Falls, Montana, to spend the winter he says was "the
18 coldest weather in United States history"; he would remember that
19 when he was sweating in the jungles of the South Pacific; his
20 onward voyage into the combat zone was in early June 1943, aboard
21 the luxury liner Lurline to Hawaii, then on to Orel Bay, New
22 Guinea, in late August, to the "North Australian Defense Allied
23 Base (NADZAB)" in an isolated and unoccupied area recently freed
24 from Japanese control by the Australians; at NADZAB, Reynolds was
25 assigned to the 63rd Air Service Group in the Markham Valley of
26 New Guinea, serving with the United States Fifth Air Force Service

27 command; this airfield became one of the biggest in the Western
28 Pacific, including four huge runways to accommodate several bomber
29 and fighter groups as well as numerous transient aircraft, with
30 about 4,000 people in uniform and later 40,000 and he was the only
31 dentist; and

32 WHEREAS, his sparse dental equipment was a metal chair with
33 no arms, no footrest, and for many weeks, no electric power, no
34 roof for the dentistry except a pole-supported canvas over the
35 armless, lightweight dental chair; Reynolds wanted a proper
36 professional dentistry, but did not have priority for materials;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, he traded little gin bottles one-at-a-time for
39 lumber wire, nails, even electrical wire for a drill, found an
40 electric motor for his drill in a Swedish ship anchored at Lae,
41 built a shack which was screened to control the multitudes of
42 mosquitoes, added arms to the dental chair and soon had a very
43 muggy but rainproof roof; and

44 WHEREAS, for his dental supplies, Reynolds had to sometimes
45 drive across the steepest and highest mountains to Lae, New
46 Guinea, the road distance from NADZAB to Lae was a full-day trip
47 by jeep, sometimes impossible; trucks often could not make the
48 trip in the almost constant rain and around the hairpin turns; and

49 WHEREAS, there were other significant events for Reynolds:
50 he saw General Douglas McArthur in Brisbane as he walked through
51 the lobby of a hotel to an elevator, and after the Japanese
52 surrendered following President Truman's order to drop two atomic
53 bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Reynolds witnessed an airplane
54 carrying several Japanese ministers headed for Tokyo Bay to board
55 USS Missouri for the surrender; and

56 WHEREAS, he felt strongly then, and even more strongly today,
57 that had not Emperor Hirohito been retained, the loss of both
58 Japanese and American lives to land on and capture Japan would
59 have exceeded the losses caused by the two A-bombs; and

60 WHEREAS, Dr. Reynold's experiences during World War II
61 reflect the true importance of the events surrounding the war, and
62 characterize these veterans as the defenders of our nation, and it
63 is with great pride that we recognize the service of this

64 Mississippian who brought honor to his community, his state and to
65 the United States of America:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and recognize the
68 distinguished military service of Dr. George Reynolds of Jackson,
69 Mississippi, and wish him success in his future endeavors.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
71 presented to Dr. Reynolds and his family and be made available to
72 the Capitol Press Corps.