

By: Senator(s) Parks, Barnett, Blackwell,
Dearing, DeBar, Frazier, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (32nd), Seymour, Wilemon, Jolly

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 550

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE AND SALUTING THE GALLANT SERVICE OF
3 DECORATED WORLD WAR II VETERAN CARL LEE NANCE OF RIPLEY,
4 MISSISSIPPI, WHO SERVED AT THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

5 WHEREAS, the men and women who served in the military during
6 the Great Conflict, World War II, are known as the "Greatest
7 Generation" because of their monumental accomplishments for our
8 country. We pause to pay tribute to a member of that generation,
9 Carl Lee Nance, who served with the 94th United States Army
10 Infantry Division at the Battle of the Bulge in Germany in
11 December 1944; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Nance was born on October 2, 1924, and calls
13 Tippah County home; and

14 WHEREAS, Carl was a graduate of Ripley High School. He
15 attended Ole Miss for two years and was given a chance to be
16 placed in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP). When he
17 got out of basic training, he was sent back to college as part of
18 an Army unit, but the program was dropped and Carl was sent as a
19 replacement to the 94th Infantry Division; and



20 WHEREAS, Mr. Nance's World War II military experience is as
21 follows:

22 • Left August 4, 1944, on the *Queen Elizabeth*, with over
23 18,000 troops on board. A very fast ship that went in "Z" fashion
24 to avoid trouble;

25 • Landed in Scotland due to the size of the boat. They
26 finished training in England and then boarded a boat to cross the
27 Channel into France. They landed on bloody Utah Beach. A little
28 side note...the sister ship to the one Carl Lee was on was the
29 *Léopoldville*, and a few weeks later, German U-Boats sank the ship,
30 killing 2,200 troops;

31 • Their job was to push across France to contain 60,000
32 German troops. Mr. Nance was wounded the first time in France
33 when on a night patrol his point man found a booby-trap wire.
34 While holding it, waiting for it to be deactivated, a stray cat
35 ran through setting it off, killing the man. Later, Mr. Nance
36 took the point and hit a wire himself which set off another booby
37 trap and sending shrapnel into his legs and his eye. Carl was
38 evacuated to the hospital. On October 2nd, his twentieth
39 birthday, while he was still in the hospital, his company was hit,
40 killing his Sergeant, Squad Leader, and many others;

41 • Once he regained his health, he joined forces at "The
42 Battle of the Bulge," formally known as the Battle of the
43 Ardennes. This was in January 1945, and by January 8th, they had
44 moved 350 miles in a boxcar in three days. Again they became



45 engaged in the Saar Region where the cold winter saw temperatures
46 in the 17-below zero range. This was part of the Siegfried Lines;

47 • Mr. Nance said the mortar rounds came down like rain.
48 It's a gut-wrenching feeling to be standing with explosive rounds
49 falling all around you. The rounds that didn't hit the ground hit
50 the trees and sent a shower of razor-sharp shrapnel screaming down
51 on you. "You can tell when you're gonna be close", Nance stated,
52 "and when they are, you dive for the first cover you can find. I
53 was one step faster than another buddy and hit a fox hole first.
54 He landed on top of me and took most of the shrapnel in his back.
55 The shrapnel killed him. If I had been one step slower, I would
56 have been the man on top";

57 • Fighting was completed by June 1945. But let us not
58 forget the cost that the 94th Infantry paid to the debt of World
59 War II. The 94th lost over a thousand men killed in action, and
60 had 4,789 wounded in action, and is listed as one of the most
61 savagely hit and hardest fighting units in the Army. When you
62 consider the average Army Division consisted of approximately
63 9,000 combat soldiers, this amounts to well over 60% casualties;
64 and

65 WHEREAS, Carl is a good Christian, father, husband, family
66 man, die-hard Ole Miss fan, a very good businessman who still
67 opens his store every day, a fisherman and hunter, a true loyal
68 American, and better yet, a Tippah Countian; and



69 WHEREAS, for his service Mr. Nance was awarded the European
70 And Middle East Theatre of Operations Medal (EAMET), Good Conduct
71 Medal and the Victory Medal. He received wounds in action in
72 France on September 21, 1944, and was discharged January 10, 1946,
73 at Camp Shelby, Mississippi; and

74 WHEREAS, we can never repay our debt to these veterans and
75 their families, but we must do what we can, with all that we have,
76 to live our lives in a way that pays tribute to their service. We
77 should not pause and remember to thank our Veterans only on
78 Veterans Memorial Day, we should do it every day:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
80 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
81 this resolution be presented to Mr. Carl Lee Nance and his family,
82 forwarded to the Mississippi Veterans of Foreign Wars, and made
83 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

