

By: Representative Bounds

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED
2 MILITARY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF MR. O.D. JACKSON, FROM NESHOPA
3 COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, WHO SERVED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS IN WORLD WAR
4 II.

5 WHEREAS, experts say the nation is losing 372 World War II
6 veterans, commonly referred to as the Greatest Generation, each
7 and every day, and only an estimated 495,000 remain out of over
8 16 million who served; and

9 WHEREAS, the five oldest sons of William Jefferson and Mary
10 Elizabeth Jackson all served during World War II, were all born
11 and grew up in Philadelphia, Mississippi, and all came home from
12 the war, and the five brothers, O'Neil, Jeffie, Lawson, Fulton and
13 Otha Dill (O.D.) served in different theaters of operations and
14 all had contrasting duties in the United States Army; and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to these five patriots of the United
16 States, there were three younger brothers who served in the United
17 States Army during the Korean conflict along with three sisters
18 who remained stateside and supported their brothers in the war
19 effort; and



20 WHEREAS, of these 11 siblings, two brothers and two sisters
21 are alive and remain as citizens of the State of Mississippi; and

22 WHEREAS, O.D. (Otha Dill) Jackson, born January 11, 1925, in
23 Philadelphia, Mississippi, enlisted in the United States Army on
24 June 29, 1943, at Camp Shelby, serving in the Asiatic-Pacific
25 Theater of Operations as a rifleman and truck driver with the
26 First Cavalry Division from February 1944 to April 1945, he
27 participated in the Campaigns of New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago,
28 and the Invasion of Leyete and Luzon, Philippine Islands, he was
29 wounded in action (Japanese sniper fire) in the right knee near
30 the outskirts of Manila, Luzon, Philippine Islands, February 15,
31 1945, was discharged at Camp Stoneman, California, November 8,
32 1945 (combat disability) and was awarded a Purple Heart Medal that
33 was presented at an ROTC Ceremony at Mississippi State University
34 in 1946; and

35 WHEREAS, after the war Mr. Jackson came back to Philadelphia
36 and married the love of his life, Edna Earl, on July 1, 1950, and
37 they were married for 56 years before she passed away in 2006; and

38 WHEREAS, he operated and managed the Neshoba County Gin
39 Association for over 35 years, a farmer's feed and supply
40 cooperative that served farmers not only in Neshoba County, but
41 across Central Mississippi, and Mr. Jackson also began raising
42 prized watermelons and vegetables on his farm in the Dixon
43 Community of Neshoba County, which he continues today, and he is
44 known in Neshoba County for his knack of producing watermelons of



45 colossal size where he is often mimicked, but yet to be imitated;
46 and

47 WHEREAS, Mr. Jackson remains active in community affairs in
48 Neshoba County, having been named its Citizen of the Year in 2010,
49 he is a lifelong member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) and
50 served as local Adjutant of the American Legion, in which he is
51 still involved; served as State Commander of the Military Order of
52 the Purple Heart and remains active; he is a spirited member of
53 the Philadelphia Rotary Club, where he can be found each Monday
54 arriving early and visiting with his fellow Rotarians; Mr. Jackson
55 for many years has organized the local Memorial Day and Veterans
56 Day programs in Philadelphia, for which the community is most
57 grateful; and

58 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict, and
59 it is with great pride and humility that we recognize the gallant
60 service of Mr. O.D. Jackson, who is a guardian of this great
61 democracy and freedom that we enjoy today:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
63 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
64 recognize and commend the distinguished military and community
65 service of Mr. O.D. Jackson from Neshoba County, Mississippi, and
66 wish him a Happy 94th Birthday today and extend the thanks of a
67 grateful country and state to him and his family on this occasion
68 for his service to the United States of America.



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
70 presented to Mr. O.D. Jackson and to the members of the Capitol
71 Press Corps.

