

Rep. Vaupel offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 109.

A resolution to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of D-Day and all of the Allied forces who fought along the beaches of Normandy so that Europe might be free from the bonds of tyranny and oppression.

Whereas, On June 6, 1944, approximately 150,000 Allied troops landed along a heavily-fortified stretch of French coastline, seeking to breach Fortress Europe and strike a crucial blow against the fascism of Nazi Germany; and

Whereas, More than 5,000 ships and 11,000 aircraft supported the invasion, making D-Day the largest air, land, and sea operation ever undertaken; and

Whereas, These soldiers, many of whom were not yet even 20 years old, faced a daunting and perilous task, as they fought through the ocean surf, braving artillery shells and machine gun fire with little to no natural cover to protect against enemy guns; and

Whereas, Allied forces suffered more than 10,000 casualties that day with more than 4,000 Allied soldiers making the ultimate sacrifice, laying down their lives on the beachheads of France in the name of liberty; and

Whereas, Many sons of America were laid to rest in the graveyards of Europe, young lives cut short before their time, brave and valiant men sacrificing the promise of their lifetime to lay footprints on the sands of Normandy, thousands of miles from their homes; and

Whereas, Those brave men who waged battle on the Normandy coast represent the best of mankind, embodying a love of country, a dedication to humanity, and, above all else, a profound and steadfast devotion to the causes of liberty and freedom; and

Whereas, All those American soldiers who lost their lives and shed their blood on that fateful day are testaments to America's enduring promise to forever stand tall against tyrannical governments, to always protect and defend democracy, and to never forget that our nation and all great nations were built upon the principles of freedom; and

Whereas, We must ever and always remember and honor the men who fought and died on that day, both those who returned home as heroes, husbands, and fathers, and also those whom history called to their final breath on Norman sands; and

Whereas, Michiganders, realizing full well that words ring hollow in honoring the bravery, valiance, and courage of these men, seek to honor their memories; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body commemorate the 73rd anniversary of D-Day and all of the Allied forces who fought along the beaches of Normandy so that Europe might be free from the bonds of tyranny and oppression. We encourage all Michiganders to observe the anniversary of D-Day and to forever honor those souls whose eulogy will always be a free and democratic Europe.