Amendment - 1st Reading-white - Requested by: John Fuller - (H) State Administration

68th Legislature - 2023		Drafter: Andria Hardin,	SJ0018.001.001
1		SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18	
2		INTRODUCED BY J. FULLER, J. WELBORN	
3			
4	A JOINT RESOLUTION OF TH	HE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIN	VES OF THE STATE OF
5	MONTANA HONORING THE MONTANA 163RD INFANTRY REGIMENT; AND DECLARING MARCH 5, 2023,		
6	AS THE OFFICIAL DATE OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTANA 163RD		
7	INFANTRY REGIMENT'S VIC	TORY IN THE BATTLE OF SANANANDA, PAPUA, N	EW GUINEA.
8			
9	WHEREAS, Montana's	s 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division, know	wn as the Jungleers, was
10	called to active duty on Septer	nber 16, 1940, for 1 year of training; and	
11	WHEREAS, the larges	t ever mobilization of American military manpower co	ntinued, ultimately calling
12	up over 15 million U.S. men ar	nd women to serve from 1941 to the end of the hostiliti	ies in 1946; and
13	WHEREAS, over 75,0	00 Montanans were part of that force; and	
14	WHEREAS, between	January 1 and 23, 1943, Montana's 163rd Infantry Reg	giment was the first U.S.
15	unit to defeat the Imperial Japa	anese forces in the Battle of Sanananda, Papua, New	Guinea; and
16	WHEREAS, on Februa	ary 22, 1943, for only the second time in Montana's his	story, the 28th Montana
17	Legislature passed a joint resc	lution in a patriotic and historic move, honoring and re	cognizing the sacrifices of
18	Montana's 163rd Infantry Regi	ment and including an emblem of a now famous color	sketch in tribute to the
19	soldiers by Montana artist Irwi	"Shorty" Shope; and	
20	WHEREAS, January 2	3, 2023, marked the 80th anniversary of the end of th	e Battle of Sanananda,
21	Papua, New Guinea, and it is I	pefitting on such an anniversary to remember poignan	t excerpts from the
22	memorandum sent to New Gu	inea quoting Senate Joint Resolution No. 1:	
23	"SENATE JOINT RES	OLUTION NO. 1 A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZ	ING THE VICTORIES OF
24	MONTANA INFANTRY REGIN	IENT, U.S.A., EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF T	HE PEOPLE OF
25	MONTANA TO THE REGIMEN	NT AND PROVDING A CABLE MESSAGE FROM TH	E LEGISLATURE TO THE
26	REGIMENT IN THE COMBAT	ZONE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC THEATER OF WAR	ર.
27	WHEREAS, the officia	I military reports emanating from General Douglas Ma	cArthur's Head-quarters in
28	the South Pacific, as released	by the War Department's and the news dispatches ca	bled by observers, making



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manifest that the 163rd Infantry--Montana's own--has been of imperishable fame in the jungles and on the heights of New Guinea in most arduous combat against a implacable foe, and has from the very outbreak of hostilities demonstrated the finest attributes of the American soldier, in devotion to training, fraternization and cooperation with free peoples of the great Pacific world to the south, and in the deep resolve to establish the rule of law among the nations of the earth.

6 The heart of all the people of Montana, while vibrant with affection for the Regiment, are burdened with 7 pain at its losses, and determined to repay the holy obligation resulting from their sacrifices, by solemnly 8 assuming the responsibility of free men in support of the reign of law throughout the earth.

9 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the twenty-eighth Legislative Assembly of 10 the State of Montana, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Assembly tenders to every 11 officer and to every man of the 163rd Infantry Regiment the deep gratitude of the whole body of our citizens for 12 the great victory which our men have won, purchased with the blood of their bravest, hopeful that the Regiment 13 will accept this expression as an evidence of the love and devotion which we have for it, and which sustains us 14 on the home front and inspires us to dedicate each day to aid our men overseas.

That we ask the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, when the Regiment is placed in his hands, to communicate the continuing homage of Montana people to General Douglas MacArthur, whose father, General Arthur MacArthur, led the Montana Regiment of 1899 to a victory that brought freedom to the Philippines who have proved their brotherhood with us and with whose help General Douglas MacArthur as his father's successor, and with the aid of our Regiment, will restore those peoples of thieves of the Pacific to the dignity of men.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following message be cabled at once, through military or other 22 appropriate channels, to the Commander of the 163rd Infantry Regiment in the combat zone:

WITH VIBRANT ADMIRATION FOR YOUR MAGNIFICENT VICTORY OVER THE JAPANESE ON
THE PAPUAN PENINSULA OF NEW GUINEA AND ELSEWHERE, WITH PRAYERS OF THE WOUNDED
AND WITH UNDYING RESOLVE TO CARRY THE HIGH PURPOSE OF OUR NOBLE DEAD, THE HEARTS
OF THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA ARE WITH YOU AS ONE EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY, THE TWENTYEIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MONTANA IN SESSION AT HELENA. /s/ Earnest T. Eaton, President
of the Senate & /s/ Gee W. O'Conner, Speaker of the House"; and



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1	WHEREAS, the resolution was approved on March 5, 1943, by Sam C. Ford, Governor, and
2	transmitted by memorandum and telegram to Montana's 163rd Infantry Regiment in which it was distributed
3	along with a special commemorative personalized print of the Capitol and the General Meagher Statue to every
4	member of the regiment by the Adjutant of the 163rd Infantry Regiment by Captain James R. Kent, by order of
5	the Regimental Commander, Colonel Jens Doe, later the Commander of the 41st Division .; and
6	WHEREAS, in February 2002, members of the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment were mobilized to
7	Bosnia in support of Operation Joint Forge, where they were tasked with peacekeeping operations across war-
8	torn Bosnia and executed this mission flawlessly, representing Montana in an exemplary fashion; and
9	WHEREAS, in June 2004, the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment was mobilized as part of the 116th
10	Brigade to deploy to northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, participating in an arduous 6-month
11	post-mobilization training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Fort Bliss, Texas, before heading for the deserts of Iraq,
12	where they faced a harsh climate and constant altercations with terrorists during the challenging 12-month tour,
13	but resulted in the 163rd Infantry Regiment being recognized with the Valorous Unit Citation; and
14	WHEREAS, in September 2010, the men and women of the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment were
15	again called upon for another mobilization to the deserts of Iraq for Operation New Dawn in southern and
16	central Iraq, where they spent nearly 9 months escorting logistical convoys around the entire country, and after
17	returning home, their efforts were recognized with the Meritorious Unit Citation; and
18	WHEREAS, in November 2021, the soldiers of the Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment were reorganized
19	into Task Force Griz and mobilized in support of Operation Spartan Shield, where after a post-mobilization
20	training at Fort Bliss, Texas, they headed to Kuwait to serve as a ready response force for U.S. Central
21	Command, where for a year Task Force Griz supported operations in Iraq, Kuwait, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and
22	many other countries across the region, including executing numerous training exercises with NATO partners.
23	
24	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
25	THE STATE OF MONTANA:
26	That the Legislature does hereby honor our Montana 163rd Infantry Regiment veterans, their families,
27	and all those who supported our nation's efforts to right a wrong and restore peace through strength from 1940

to 1946, expending time, talent, and sacrifice to include the ultimate sacrifice in support of freedom.

