

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE RESOLUTION 851

Sponsors: Representatives G. Martin, Lucas, Floyd, and Lewis (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

April 15, 2015

1 A HOUSE RESOLUTION HONORING THE BRAVE MEN OF THE 555TH PARACHUTE
2 INFANTRY BATTALION.

3 Whereas, on February 25, 1943, the 555th Parachute Infantry Company was placed
4 on the rolls of the United States Army; and

5 Whereas, by December of that year, Headquarters, Army Ground Forces, authorized
6 the activation of the Company as an all-black unit; and

7 Whereas, the Company was to be composed of volunteers, with an enlisted cadre to
8 be selected from members of the 92nd Infantry (Buffalo) Division at Fort Huachuca, Arizona;
9 and

10 Whereas, the Company was officially activated on December 30, 1943, at Fort
11 Benning, Georgia; and

12 Whereas, by February 1944, the first 16 men qualified as parachutists; and

13 Whereas, on November 25, 1944, the Company moved to Camp Mackall, North
14 Carolina, and was reorganized and redesignated as Company A of the newly activated 555th
15 Parachute Infantry Battalion; and

16 Whereas, in May of 1945, the 555th, nicknamed the "Triple Nickles," was deployed
17 to Pendleton Field, Oregon, with a detachment to Chico Army Air Field, California, with the
18 mission of recovering and disposing possible Japanese balloon bombs as well as suppressing
19 forest fires; and

20 Whereas, the 555th was assigned to the Ninth Services Command and trained by the
21 U.S. Forest Service, becoming the military's first "smokejumpers"; and

22 Whereas, between July and October of 1945, the 555th bravely combated several
23 forest fires and recorded over 1,000 individual jumps; and

24 Whereas, the 555th suffered only one fatality during that time when Malvin L.
25 Brown died during a "letdown" technique from a tree on August 6, 1945; and

26 Whereas, the 555th returned to Camp Mackall in October 1945 and then was
27 transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for the next two years and later attached to the 82nd
28 Airborne Division; and

29 Whereas, the 555th was inactivated on December 15, 1947, and most of its members
30 were assigned to the Airborne Division's 3rd Battalion, 505th Airborne Infantry, before moving
31 to other units; and

32 Whereas, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was removed from the U.S. Army's
33 rolls on August 22, 1950; and



1 Whereas, in 2013, the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion was honored by the U.S.
2 Forest Service when the agency named a conference room in its national headquarters office in
3 Washington, D.C., after 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion; and

4 Whereas, Clarence H. Beavers is the only surviving member of the original 555th
5 Parachute Infantry test platoon; Now, therefore,

6 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives:

7 **SECTION 1.** The House of Representatives honors the memory of the brave men
8 who served with honor and distinction in the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion during World
9 War II.

10 **SECTION 2.** The Principal Clerk shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution
11 to Clarence H. Beavers and to the 555th Parachute Infantry Association, Inc.

12 **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon adoption.