

Tarleton Resolution to honor WWII soldier

Written by Lauren Ohnesorge
Tuesday, 10 July 2007 20:00

The following resolution was drafted by Representative Cullie Tarleton in honor of World War II soldier Lawrence Burkett.

Burkett was killed in action in 1944, but his was discovered just last year. In June, Burkett was finally laid to rest in Ashe County.

Whereas, Lawrence Burkett, a lifelong resident of Ashe County, was a devoted family man and gifted carpenter, who enjoyed fishing, hunting and singing bass in the choir at the Friendship Baptist Church; and

Whereas in April of 1944, Lawrence Burkett at the age of 28 was drafted into the United States Army, where he proudly served his country during World War II as a member of Company A of the 357th Regiment of the 90th Infantry Division; and

Whereas, within months of his departure to Europe with his regiment, Lawrence Burkett's family learned that he was mission in action and later received notice that he had likely been killed on December 11, 1944, during a conflict between American and German troops; and

Whereas, Lawrence Burkett's wife Dora never gave up hope that her beloved husband would come home and

years sent letters seeking information regarding her husband while raising their children, Gladys, Katherine and Bill, by herself; and

Whereas, Lawrence Burkett's family spent more than 60 years without any concrete evidence of his fate or final resting place until his remains discovered in a forest near the border between France and Germany along with dog tags bearing his name were positively identified in 2007; and

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Whereas, on June 12, 2007, Lawrence Burkett's flag draped coffin was flown to North Carolina and met by his three children; and

Whereas, Lawrence Burkett should be commended and remembered for his valor and courage in defending our freedom during one of our country's most challenging times.

Now, therefore, Representative Cullie M. Tarleton joins the citizens of this State in recognizing Lawrence Burkett as a true American hero and patriot.