

104TH CONGRESS
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S. CON. RES. 59

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should award a Medal of Honor to Wayne T. Alderson in recognition of acts performed at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty while serving in the United States Army during World War II.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 16, 1996

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOLE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. THURMOND) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should award a Medal of Honor to Wayne T. Alderson in recognition of acts performed at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty while serving in the United States Army during World War II.

Whereas Wayne T. Alderson served as a private first class in the United States Army in Germany during World War II;

Whereas, during the Rhineland Campaign of such war, which was 4 days of close, fierce combat from March 15 to March 18, 1945, Private First Class Alderson single-handedly killed 43 enemy soldiers;

Whereas, according to The History of the Third Infantry Division, Private First Class Alderson was the first soldier from the United States to cross into Germany on March 15, 1945;

Whereas, on March 15, 1945, Company B of the 7th Infantry Regiment, led by Private First Class Alderson, crossed into Germany 1 mile south of Utweiler to surprise the enemy troops and advanced through heavy, armed resistance, machinegun crossfire, and a German minefield;

Whereas, during such advancement, Private First Class Alderson spotted and bypassed a German bunker and machinegun nest and entered into a close firefight, killing 6 enemy soldiers;

Whereas, when a second enemy machinegun impeded such advancement, Private First Class Alderson volunteered to advance alone, forged a stream, and waged a single-handed assault on the German machinegun crew, killing all 5 of the crew as Second Lieutenant Barbour and Private First Class Preston, along with the other soldiers of Company B, arrived to force the German enemy soldiers to withdraw;

Whereas Company B continued to advance toward the town of Erching, where Private First Class Alderson killed 2 enemy snipers who were impeding the advance, and the town was captured as the enemy troops retreated;

Whereas Second Lieutenant Barbour and Lieutenant Colonel Wallace stated that they intended to recommend Private First Class Alderson for high military decoration;

Whereas, on March 16 and 17, 1945, as Company B continued to attack and advance toward the Siegfried Line,

Private First Class Alderson killed 4 enemy soldiers in close house-to-house fighting, captured 3 German prisoners, and led the prisoners, at great risk to himself, past enemy positions to the headquarters of Company B, where vital information concerning the defenses of the Siegfried Line was obtained from the prisoners;

Whereas, on March 18, 1945, Private First Class Alderson led Company B into its fourth consecutive day of battle at the Siegfried Line but then was cut off from the company;

Whereas, after Private First Class Alderson was cut off from Company B, he was unable to find safe cover and charged forward, killing 6 enemy soldiers in a close fire-fight, then attacked the main entrance of a German trench, killing 4 enemy defenders before capturing the front end of the trench;

Whereas, when the remnant of Company B, which was in the front portion of the trench under the command of Captain James Rich and without radio contact, was about to be overrun by a German counterattack, Private First Class Alderson again volunteered to be first scout;

Whereas Private First Class Alderson immediately killed 4 advancing enemy soldiers in bitter combat as he moved down the trench and engaged a large German force that was advancing in an adjoining and interlocking trench;

Whereas Private First Class Alderson, who was fully exposed and vastly outnumbered, charged the enemy forces and entered into a fierce firefight with them at close range, killing 12 enemy soldiers as the German counterattack was repelled and the enemy forces withdrew;

Whereas, in such action, Private First Class Alderson received a serious head wound from shrapnel when a German grenade landed at his feet and exploded in his face;

Whereas the life of Private First Class Alderson was saved by the valorous actions of Private First Class Preston, who covered the body of Private First Class Alderson with his own body and was fatally wounded in the head by the bullet of a sniper;

Whereas Private First Class Alderson, while he fought to remain conscious, crawled back along the trench to brief Captain Rich on the events that had occurred in the other end of the trench;

Whereas Captain Rich stated his intention to recommend to Colonel Heintges, the commander of the 7th Infantry Regiment, that Private First Class Alderson receive a Medal of Honor;

Whereas such recommendation has been verified by independent affidavit; and

Whereas Private First Class Alderson has been waiting for more than 47 years to receive the Medal of Honor for which he was recommended and which he so richly deserves: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that the President should award a Medal of Honor to Wayne T. Alderson in recognition of acts performed at the risk of his life and beyond the call of duty while serving as a private first class in the United States Army in Germany during World War II.

