

# HJR230 INTRODUCED



1 HJR230  
2 LM88WAA-1  
3 By Representative Yarbrough  
4 RFD: RULES  
5 First Read: 25-Apr-24



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

HJR\_\_\_\_\_ POSTHUMOUSLY COMMENDING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NOAH C. REEVES FOR SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY.

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2024, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced that United States Army Private First Class Noah C. "Pete" Reeves, killed during World War II, was accounted for on September 12, 2022, eight decades after a German officer handed over his identification tags; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Army Pfc. Reeves was reported killed in action on December 6, 1944, after a firefight between his battalion and heavily-armed German forces near the town of Vossenack, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest, according to DPAA; Reeves was 26 years old when he died; and

WHEREAS, shortly after the firefight, both sides held a temporary truce along the Kall River Gorge to recover their wounded and dead; a German officer handed over Reeves' identification tags and pay book, attesting to both his death and recovery by German forces; members of his unit were not able to recover his body from the Germans before fighting resumed, and Pfc. Reeves' remains were not accounted for following the war; he was declared "non-recoverable" in 1951; and

WHEREAS; in 1948, a set of unidentified remains was discovered in the heavily wooded slope of the Kall Gorge by



## HJR230 INTRODUCED

29 a German resident; AGRC personnel investigated and recovered  
30 the remains, but they were not able to scientifically  
31 identify them; they were interred in 1949 in what would be  
32 named the Ardennes American Cemetery; many years later, in  
33 2021, based on research by a DPAA historian, it was  
34 determined that the unidentified remains could possibly  
35 belong to Reeves; they were then sent to the DPAA laboratory  
36 for identification; and

37 WHEREAS, to identify Reeves's remains, scientists  
38 from DPAA used anthropological analysis, as well as  
39 circumstantial evidence; additionally, scientists from the  
40 Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA  
41 and Y chromosome DNA analysis for positive identification;  
42 and

43 WHEREAS, Pfc. Pete Reeves was the son of Izoria Bell  
44 Reeves and J. E. Reeves; he was a Lawrence County resident  
45 who worked a farm near Moulton and never married; when he  
46 was 25 years old he learned that the government had  
47 instituted a draft and immediately drove into town to  
48 register; shortly thereafter, he was called on to serve his  
49 country; he was stationed at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, and Ft.  
50 Leonard Wood, Missouri, prior to being shipped out to  
51 Germany; and

52 WHEREAS, before he left, his family held a big  
53 reunion to see him off and wish him well; he was a beloved  
54 son, brother, uncle, and friend; Pfc. Reeves was known as a  
55 quiet man, standing about 5'8" tall with beautiful blue  
56 eyes; he was respected in his community, even at his young



## HJR230 INTRODUCED

57 age; and

58 WHEREAS, the battle that Pfc. Pete Reeves was killed  
59 in began on September 19, 1944, and ended on February 10,  
60 1945; just how many soldiers died is not known; there were  
61 some 10,000 German and 30,000 American dead in what is known  
62 as the longest single battle the United States Army has ever  
63 fought; and

64 WHEREAS, Pfc. Pete Reeves gave his all, not only  
65 defending our freedoms, but that of the citizens in another  
66 far away country, for the love of his fellow man; he  
67 continues to serve today; the stories and articles of his  
68 sacrifice encourage Veterans to know they will not be  
69 forgotten; that our nation has not given up on recovering  
70 the remains of our very own; they bring Veterans together in  
71 honoring him; all of these things imbue him even more deeply  
72 in our memories and make his sacrifice of even more value to  
73 our nation; now therefore,

74 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
75 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That this Legislative Body  
76 recognizes, commends, and thanks United States Army Private  
77 First Class Noah C. Reeves posthumously for his service,  
78 dedication, and sacrifice to his community, the State of  
79 Alabama, and this great Nation.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
81 resolution be delivered to the family of Noah C. Reeves as a  
82 mere token of our immense gratitude and in recognition of  
83 his ultimate sacrifice.