

Senate Resolution 83

By: Senator Beatty of the 47<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Damon J. Gause; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Damon J. Gause was born June 17, 1915, in Fort Valley, Georgia, and later  
3 moved with his family to Jackson County and, after graduating from Jefferson High School,  
4 he attended the University of Georgia, and while there he learned to fly from the famous  
5 Epps family; and

6 WHEREAS, he served a tour of duty with the United States Coast Guard and, after a period  
7 of civilian employment, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps and was assigned to Nichols Field  
8 in the Philippine Islands on the eve of the Second World War and, as the flyers arrived  
9 without their aircraft, he was assigned to an infantry unit; and

10 WHEREAS, after the American surrender and the start of the Bataan Death March, Gause  
11 escaped by overpowering a guard and making a run for Manilla Bay and, despite being shot  
12 at, he made the bay and managed to cross the shark infested waters by boat and by swimming  
13 to the American held island of Corregidor, where he was assigned to beach defense with the  
14 marines, and when the surrender of Corregidor was ordered, he received permission to  
15 escape, and with two Filipino servicemen he left in a small native canoe for the main island  
16 of Luzon, over ten miles away, and even though the canoe was sunk by enemy air craft, the  
17 men made it safely and Gause was given sanctuary with local inhabitants; and

18 WHEREAS, he soon met another American hiding on Luzon and the two set out for  
19 Australia, a trip of 3,200 miles, in a native 20 foot combination motor and sail launch, and  
20 with few supplies and only a hand held compass, they arrived at Wyndham, Australia, on  
21 October 11, 1942, to bring General Douglas MacArthur the first eyewitness report of the fall  
22 of the Philippine Islands; and

23 WHEREAS, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and ordered back to the United  
24 States to help sell war bonds, but he applied for transfer to the war zone and was assigned

1 to the 365<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group and flew numerous missions over Germany, and on  
2 March 9, 1944, while his group was training for the invasion of Normandy, he was killed  
3 when his P-47 Thunderbolt fighter plane crashed, and he now rests in the American  
4 Cambridge Cemetery in Cambridge, England; and

5 WHEREAS, it is only proper that the members of this body recognize this brave and patriotic  
6 American.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
8 recognize the courage and honor of Damon J. Gause.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
10 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Damon J. Gause.