

House Resolution 1467

By: Representative Maddox of the 172nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life and service of Private Eugene "Gene" Harrell Barwick; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Private Eugene "Gene" Harrell Barwick was born in Thomas County, Georgia,
4 and he was valedictorian and his future wife salutatorian of Cairo High School Class of 1941;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Private Barwick and Miss Ruth Walker were wed on May 5, 1944; and

7 WHEREAS, Private Barwick joined the United States armed forces and was serving his
8 country in World War II when he lost his life; and

9 WHEREAS, Private Barwick was among the 2,235 American soldiers from the 262nd and
10 264th Regiments, 66th Infantry Division, being transported across the English Channel on
11 the S. S. *Leopoldville* as reinforcements for a battle that would become know as the Battle
12 of the Bulge; and

13 WHEREAS, just five and one-half miles from its destination of Cherbourg, France, the
14 vessel was torpedoed by a German submarine, and the ship sank two and one-half hours
15 later; and

16 WHEREAS, delayed radio transmissions for help, delayed response of rescue craft, heavy
17 seas, and freezing temperatures, in addition to it being Christmas Eve and American
18 servicemen at the base in Cherbourg who could have helped were either out or attending
19 church, all contributed to the magnitude of the tragedy; and

20 WHEREAS, by the end of that terrible night, 763 American soldiers were dead, many having
21 drowned or frozen to death in the icy waters of the English Channel; and

1 WHEREAS, these soldiers represented youth from 47 of the then 48 United States, many of
2 them only 18 to 21 years old; and

3 WHEREAS, Private Barwick was among the American soldiers who did not survive; and

4 WHEREAS, Private Barwick was awarded the Soldier's Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, and
5 the Purple Heart, and his name appears among those listed on the Leopoldville Disaster
6 Memorial at Fort Benning, Georgia.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body offer their most sincere condolences to the family of Private
9 Eugene "Gene" Harrell Barwick.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
11 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Private Eugene
12 "Gene" Harrell Barwick.