

House Resolution 861

By: Representatives Smyre of the 132nd and Hugley of the 133rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. Benjamin Charles Reese; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, our nation's security continues to rely on patriotic men and women who put
3 their personal lives on hold in order to place themselves in harm's way to protect the
4 freedoms that all United States citizens cherish; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the United States recently lost one of its finest and most distinguished citizens
6 with the passing of Mr. Benjamin Charles Reese on March 19, 2009; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Mr. Reese has long been recognized by the citizens of this nation for the vital
8 role that he has played in leadership and his deep personal commitment to the welfare of the
9 citizens of the United States; and
- 10 WHEREAS, born on February 28, 1917, in Early County, Georgia, Mr. Reese was the
11 beloved son of Charles and Genevieve Reese; and
- 12 WHEREAS, a graduate of Jakin High School, Mr. Reese enlisted in the United States Army
13 in 1939 to serve as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty as a member of the original
14 48 Airborne Test Platoon that pioneered military airborne operations; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Mr. Reese demonstrated great strength, leadership, and courage during World
16 War II with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and 82
17 Airborne; and
- 18 WHEREAS, his valiant service included jumps into Normandy on D Day and, during
19 Operation Market Garden, into Holland during World War II and leadership with the 65th
20 Infantry during the Korean War; and

21 WHEREAS, after the Korean War, Mr. Reese continued his devoted service to the Army for
22 30 more years, retiring in 1969 as Chief Warrant Officer Four from the Infantry School in
23 Ft. Benning; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Reese's heroic and valorous deeds earned him two Bronze Stars with Oak
25 Leaf Clusters, a Purple Heart, an Army Commendation Medal, a Combat Infantryman's
26 Badge, and Parachutist's Wings with Combat Stars; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Reese was united in love and marriage to his wife, Verne, for 66 wonderful
28 years, and he was blessed with two remarkable sons, Benjamin and David; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Reese embodied the spirit of service, willing to find meaning in something
30 greater than himself, and it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding
31 accomplishments of this remarkable and distinguished American be recognized
32 appropriately.

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
34 the members of this body express their deepest and most sincere regret at the passing of Mr.
35 Benjamin Charles Reese; commend his efficient, effective, unselfish, and dedicated public
36 service to the citizens of his country; and extend to his family their most profound
37 appreciation for him and all members of the United States military who stand ever ready to
38 lay the ultimate sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
40 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Benjamin
41 Charles Reese.