

House Resolution 82

By: Representative Jackson of the 128th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Louis Graziano on his incredible bravery and his dedication
2 to this country for his efforts in World War II; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Louis Graziano was born in 1923, making him the last surviving World War II
4 veteran to witness Germany's surrender; and

5 WHEREAS, he was part of the Omaha Beach invasion on D-Day, he was in the third wave,
6 he was a master sergeant in World War II, and he helped build the Dwight D. Eisenhower
7 headquarters in Europe; and

8 WHEREAS, after D-Day, he was in the Battle of the Bulge, where he almost lost his feet to
9 frostbite, and he took part in the June 6th invasion of Normandy in 1944; and

10 WHEREAS, he became the utilities foreman for the 102nd Infantry Field Artillery Battalion
11 Special Headquarters Command in Reims, France; part of this job called for him to be
12 responsible for all American occupied buildings in Reims, including the Little Red
13 Schoolhouse where Germany signed the surrender document; and

14 WHEREAS, after witnessing the signing, Mr. Graziano took the Germans to another room
15 to meet General Dwight D. Eisenhower; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Graziano was given the French Legion of Honor in Thomson, Georgia, an
17 honor given to veterans as recognition for the role they played in liberating France from
18 German occupation, and Vincent Hommeril, consul general of France, called him a hero and
19 inspiration; and

20 WHEREAS, he was born in East Aurora, New York, and he worked with his father digging
21 and putting sewer lines down; after a year, he decided to go to beauty school to become a
22 hairstylist since his sister owned a hair salon; and

23 WHEREAS, he graduated from the Buffalo School of Beauty and Culture, and he was
24 working at his sisters salon when he got drafted into the army; he still works at his
25 barbershop today, cutting and styling hair for 80 years; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Graziano met his future wife, Eula "Bobbie" Shaneyfelt, while he was in
27 Reims, where she served a staff sergeant in the Women's Army Corps, and the couple moved
28 back to the United States and raised five children, Louis, Moira, Marsha, David, and Kim;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, for most of Mr. Graziano's life, Thomson has been his home; he truly loves his
31 community, and they love him; and

32 WHEREAS Mr. Graziano wrote a book about his experience during the war titled "A
33 Patriot's Memoirs of World War II: Through My Eyes, Heart, and Soul."

34 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 members of this body commend Louis Graziano for his heroic actions in World War II and
36 honor the pride and prestige that it has brought this great state to call him a resident.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
38 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Louis
39 Graziano.