

## 1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

2 INTRODUCED BY J. FULLER, J. WELBORN

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF  
5 MONTANA HONORING THE MONTANA 163RD INFANTRY REGIMENT; AND DECLARING MARCH 5, 2023,  
6 AS THE OFFICIAL DATE OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MONTANA 163RD  
7 INFANTRY REGIMENT'S VICTORY IN THE BATTLE OF SANANANDA, PAPUA, NEW GUINEA.

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9 WHEREAS, Montana's 163rd Infantry Regiment, 41st Infantry Division, known as the Jungleers, was  
10 called to active duty on September 16, 1940, for 1 year of training; and

11 WHEREAS, the largest ever mobilization of American military manpower continued, ultimately calling  
12 up over 15 million U.S. men and women to serve from 1941 to the end of the hostilities in 1946; and

13 WHEREAS, over 75,000 Montanans were part of that force; and

14 WHEREAS, between January 1 and 23, 1943, Montana's 163rd Infantry Regiment was the first U.S.  
15 unit to defeat the Imperial Japanese forces in the Battle of Sanananda, Papua, New Guinea; and

16 WHEREAS, on February 22, 1943, for only the second time in Montana's history, the 28th Montana  
17 Legislature passed a joint resolution in a patriotic and historic move, honoring and recognizing the sacrifices of  
18 Montana's 163rd Infantry Regiment and including an emblem of a now famous color sketch in tribute to the  
19 soldiers by Montana artist Irwin "Shorty" Shope; and

20 WHEREAS, January 23, 2023, marked the 80th anniversary of the end of the Battle of Sanananda,  
21 Papua, New Guinea, and it is befitting on such an anniversary to remember poignant excerpts from the  
22 memorandum sent to New Guinea quoting Senate Joint Resolution No. 1:

23 "SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1 A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE VICTORIES OF  
24 MONTANA INFANTRY REGIMENT, U.S.A., EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE PEOPLE OF  
25 MONTANA TO THE REGIMENT AND PROVIDING A CABLE MESSAGE FROM THE LEGISLATURE TO THE  
26 REGIMENT IN THE COMBAT ZONE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC THEATER OF WAR.

27 WHEREAS, the official military reports emanating from General Douglas MacArthur's Head-quarters in  
28 the South Pacific, as released by the War Department's and the news dispatches cabled by observers, making

1 manifest that the 163rd Infantry--Montana's own--has been of imperishable fame in the jungles and on the  
2 heights of New Guinea in most arduous combat against a implacable foe, and has from the very outbreak of  
3 hostilities demonstrated the finest attributes of the American soldier, in devotion to training, fraternization and  
4 cooperation with free peoples of the great Pacific world to the south, and in the deep resolve to establish the  
5 rule of law among the nations of the earth.

6 The heart of all the people of Montana, while vibrant with affection for the Regiment, are burdened with  
7 pain at its losses, and determined to repay the holy obligation resulting from their sacrifices, by solemnly  
8 assuming the responsibility of free men in support of the reign of law throughout the earth.

9 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the twenty-eighth Legislative Assembly of  
10 the State of Montana, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Assembly tenders to every  
11 officer and to every man of the 163rd Infantry Regiment the deep gratitude of the whole body of our citizens for  
12 the great victory which our men have won, purchased with the blood of their bravest, hopeful that the Regiment  
13 will accept this expression as an evidence of the love and devotion which we have for it, and which sustains us  
14 on the home front and inspires us to dedicate each day to aid our men overseas.

15 That we ask the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, when the Regiment is placed in his hands, to  
16 communicate the continuing homage of Montana people to General Douglas MacArthur, whose father, General  
17 Arthur MacArthur, led the Montana Regiment of 1899 to a victory that brought freedom to the Philippines who  
18 have proved their brotherhood with us and with whose help General Douglas MacArthur as his father's  
19 successor, and with the aid of our Regiment, will restore those peoples of thieves of the Pacific to the dignity of  
20 men.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following message be cabled at once, through military or other  
22 appropriate channels, to the Commander of the 163rd Infantry Regiment in the combat zone:

23 WITH VIBRANT ADMIRATION FOR YOUR MAGNIFICENT VICTORY OVER THE JAPANESE ON  
24 THE PAPUAN PENINSULA OF NEW GUINEA AND ELSEWHERE, WITH PRAYERS OF THE WOUNDED  
25 AND WITH UNDYING RESOLVE TO CARRY THE HIGH PURPOSE OF OUR NOBLE DEAD, THE HEARTS  
26 OF THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA ARE WITH YOU AS ONE EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY, THE TWENTY-  
27 EIGHTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MONTANA IN SESSION AT HELENA. /s/ Earnest T. Eaton, President  
28 of the Senate & /s/ Gee W. O'Conner, Speaker of the House"; and

