

**No. R-444. House concurrent resolution commemorating the World War II friendship and military service of Raymond Sanville and Bill Spriggs.**

(H.C.R.326)

Offered by: Representatives Wheeler of Derby, Kilmartin of Newport City, Lewis of Derby and Marcotte of Coventry

Offered by: Senators Illuzzi and Starr

Whereas, Ray Sanville of Irasburg and Bill Spriggs of Massena, New York entered the U.S. Army in 1943 and met while in military training at Fort Mead, Maryland, and

Whereas, an immediate and warm friendship developed between the two men, and Bill Spriggs commented decades later that Ray Sanville was probably his only friend at the time, and

Whereas, they landed together at Omaha Beach on the French coast slightly over two weeks after the D-Day Invasion of June 6, 1944, and

Whereas, shortly after landing in France, they were separated in the course of military operations, and

Whereas, after an especially bloody encounter with German forces, Bill Spriggs was assigned the job of collecting dog tags from dead American soldiers in order that the soldiers' next of kin could be notified, and

Whereas, while conducting this sad personal reconnaissance, he located his special friend, Ray Sanville, and removed his tag, and

Whereas, Bill Spriggs' military service in Europe continued and included combat duty during the Battle of the Bulge, and

Whereas, during the ensuing decades, Bill Spriggs always wondered if Ray Sanville's family knew of his death in battle and whether his remains were returned home to Vermont, and he even traveled to Montpelier in a futile and disappointing search for information, and

Whereas, recently, two World War II enthusiasts, one in Minnesota, and the other in Belgium, agreed to assist Bill Spriggs in his search, and through their efforts, he viewed a photo of Ray Sanville posted on the website of the *Northland Journal* and read that Ray had been buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Newport, and

Whereas, as a result of this discovery, Bill Spriggs has been in contact with Ray Sanville's cousin, Julie Mossa, of Derby, and, in May, will visit Ray's grave and meet his only surviving son, Doug Sanville, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly commemorates the World War II friendship and military service of Bill Spriggs and Ray Sanville, Bill Spriggs' 65 years of personal dedication to assuring that his friend's remains were home in Vermont and his fate made known to his family, and the personal loss that Doug Sanville suffered at a young age when his father was killed while serving his country in wartime, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Bill Spriggs, Doug Sanville, Julie Mossa, and the *Northland Journal*.