

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

COMMENDATIONS: Commends decorated veteran and centenarian James "Jim" Bollich for his military service in the United States Army Air Corps on the occasion of Louisiana America 250

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend decorated veteran and centenarian James "Jim" Bollich for his military service  
3 in the United States Army Air Corps on the occasion of Louisiana America 250.

4 WHEREAS, James "Jim" Bollich was born on August 15, 1921, near Eunice,  
5 Louisiana; he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1940 and was stationed in the  
6 Philippines three weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Bollich fought in the Battle of Bataan on the Bataan Peninsula in  
8 Central Luzon, Philippines, in 1942; following the fall of Bataan, he and his fellow troops  
9 endured the infamous Bataan Death March, a sixty-five mile forced march in brutal  
10 conditions that resulted in the deaths of roughly twelve thousand American and Filipino  
11 soldiers; and

12 WHEREAS, after the march, Mr. Bollich was held for nearly four and a half years  
13 as a prisoner of war in Manchuria; he was released after the camp was liberated on his  
14 twenty-fourth birthday on August 15, 1945; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Bollich is a recipient of the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the  
16 Congressional Gold Medal, and numerous other military honors; he is a Fulbright Scholar  
17 and the author of twelve books, including *Bataan Death March: A Soldier's Story*; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Bollich is currently one hundred four years old and resides in  
19 Lafayette, Louisiana; he is believed to be one of the last surviving United States veterans  
20 who endured the Bataan Death March; and

1           WHEREAS, James "Jim" Bollich is a true American hero who is most deserving of  
2 the highest recognition for the inspiring degree of perseverance he displayed while defending  
3 the country's freedoms.

4           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
5 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend decorated veteran and centenarian James  
6 "Jim" Bollich for his military service in the United States Army Air Corps on the occasion  
7 of Louisiana America 250 and does hereby express enduring appreciation to Mr. Bollich and  
8 all American veterans for their unrelenting dedication to the preservation of liberty.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 53 Original

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Commends decorated veteran and centenarian James "Jim" Bollich for his military service in the U.S. Army Air Corps on the occasion of La. America 250.