

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

A RESOLUTION

To commend 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend 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 and does hereby express enduring appreciation to Mr. Bollich and all American veterans for their unrelenting dedication to the preservation of liberty.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES