



HR0321

LRB101 12140 ALS 59732 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives wish to commend Nick Korompilas on his bravery  
4 when his ship, the USS Mannert L. Abele, was attacked and sunk  
5 off the island of Okinawa 74 years ago; and

6           WHEREAS, In the spring of 1945, Nick Korompilas, a native  
7 of Lincolnwood, was part of an armada of ships supporting the  
8 Allied invasion of Okinawa, the last of the battles of World  
9 War II; most days, he worked in the sick bay, tending to the  
10 sailor's cuts and scrapes and handing out aspirin; and

11           WHEREAS, On the afternoon of April 12, 1945, Nick  
12 Korompilas waited in a makeshift sick bay as the USS Mannert L.  
13 Abele came under attack near Okinawa by Japanese aircraft,  
14 including kamikazes; a moment later, a Japanese suicide fighter  
15 slammed into the starboard side of the ship, just above the  
16 water line, engulfing it in flames; behind it came a  
17 rocket-propelled bomb with a pilot squeezed into a tiny  
18 cockpit; the blast tossed him 20 feet into the air; and

19           WHEREAS, Nick Korompilas got to his feet and prepared to  
20 abandon the ship, but then he remembered his friend, the chief  
21 commissary steward; he found the man lying on the floor of the  
22 galley, drenched in scalding soup; he grabbed him by the life

1 jacked, carried him out of the sick bay, shoved him into the  
2 water, and jumped in after him; within a minute, the entire  
3 ship sank, leaving the survivors stranded in a sea of black  
4 engine oil; and

5 WHEREAS, Nick Korompilas spent the next few hours treading  
6 water and hauling the injured and dying to another American  
7 naval ship; and

8 WHEREAS, Nick Korompilas received a naval heroism medal and  
9 was given 30 days survivor leave in the United States; he spent  
10 the remainder of the war working at a naval hospital in  
11 Philadelphia; he married, had a son, and spent the rest of his  
12 working life as a commercial real estate agent; therefore, be  
13 it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
15 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
16 we commend Nick Korompilas on his heroic actions on the day his  
17 ship, the USS Mannert L. Abele, was attacked and sunk by a  
18 double kamikaze attack off the island of Okinawa; and be it  
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
21 presented to Nick Korompilas as an expression of our esteem and  
22 respect.