

Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, April 13, 2005

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**TEXAS SENATE HONORS THE BRAVE HEROES OF
THE WORLD WAR II BATAAN MARCH**

On Wednesday, April 6, 2005, Senator Leticia Van de Putte, District 26, San Antonio, sponsored Senate Resolution 539 in tribute to the courageous soldiers who overcame overwhelming odds and survived the Bataan Death March.

This event was organized in order to give Bataan March veterans a chance to visit the Capitol, be honored by their senators, and reunite after the 63 years since the beginning of the Bataan Death March in the Philippines. In addition, the ceremony permitted the veterans' families to recognize the bravery displayed by their family members.

When asked why she organized this ceremony honoring the WWII Bataan March Heroes, Senator Van de Putte responded, "Texas has a proud tradition of honoring our military heroes, especially those service men and women of the Greatest Generation."

Senator Van de Putte continued, stating, "All Texans owe these brave soldiers more than just a thank you. We live in freedom today because of their sacrifice."

The day consisted of 10 veterans and their families who were first honored at a breakfast reception where they were presented with medals honoring their sacrifices. Senators Van de Putte, Deuell, Estes, Janek, and Zaffirini attended the reception sponsored by USAA, a financial product and service company dedicated to serving the military community. Following the reception, the heroes and their families assembled and watched a video of a White Sands Missile Range commemoration of the march. Finally, the Senate of the State of Texas honored the brave soldiers in the Senate chamber.

Ceremony Honoring WWII Bataan March Heroes

Wednesday, April 6, 2005 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Texas Senate Chamber

1100 Congress Ave

Austin, Texas 78701