

HOUSE BILL 1950

By Clemmons

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15,
Chapter 2, relative to days of special observance.

WHEREAS, certain dates in human history are so significant that they remain etched in our collective memories; and

WHEREAS, June 6, 1944, is one such date, also known as D-Day, when Allied soldiers from the United States, Great Britain, and Canada landed on the beaches and fields of northern France to begin the daunting task of opening a new front in the war to defeat Adolf Hitler and his Nazi Germany regime; and

WHEREAS, almost 200,000 sailors from eight navies assisted the landings by shelling the fearsome Atlantic Wall, transporting over 150,000 troops to the beaches, and evacuating numerous casualties of the fierce fighting; and

WHEREAS, Allied air forces bombarded Nazi positions along the length of the Normandy landing beaches and dropped over 20,000 paratroopers behind enemy lines in the early morning hours of D-Day; and

WHEREAS, despite the meticulous planning and months of rigorous training, the months-long deception operation by the Allies, and the massive bombardment from air and sea, the success of the invasion rested on the brave soldiers storming the beaches; and

WHEREAS, even in the face of withering fire from the formidable and fortified positions of the Germans while taking massive numbers of casualties, these soldiers courageously succeeded in gaining a foothold in France, thereby opening a path toward ultimate victory over the Nazis; and

WHEREAS, Allied forces suffered over 10,000 casualties on the first day of the invasion, of which 4,414 paid the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper that we honor and remember the great sacrifice made by the brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen on June 6, 1944, and give thanks for the freedom that they gave so much to provide; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 15, Chapter 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

June 6 of each year is to be observed as "D-Day Remembrance Day in Tennessee", to honor and remember the brave men and women who fought valiantly and worked tirelessly to achieve the greatest amphibious invasion in history, which led to the liberation of Europe from tyranny. This is not a legal holiday as defined in § 15-1-101.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.