

House Resolution No. 4769

Whereas, it is with tremendous respect and gratitude that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their diverse daily endeavors in order to recognize those Show-Me State residents who honorably answered the call to national service through their enlistment in the United States military; and

Whereas, Payton L. Vanderpool was born on June 14, 1919, at Cowgill, Missouri; attended rural school in the Cowgill area; and moved with his family to a farm at Lawson before joining the United States Navy in March 1940; and

Whereas, after basic training in San Diego, California, Payton Vanderpool returned home on leave for a few days and then reported for duty aboard the battleship USS Pennsylvania in Bremerton, Washington; and

Whereas, on December 7, 1941, Payton Vanderpool was on the dock next to the dry-docked USS Pennsylvania when the Japanese attacked; and

Whereas, Payton Vanderpool not only lost his life in the infamous battle which brought the United States into World War II, but he also lost his identity and was buried as an “unknown” in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii; and

Whereas, on June 18, 2003, the remains of Payton Vanderpool were disinterred and subjected to DNA analysis and comparison with dental records; and

Whereas, Payton Vanderpool was positively identified on September 22, 2003, and returned to his native state of Missouri for reburial on December 7, 2003, after sixty-two years of separation:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to salute the remains of World War II veteran Payton Vanderpool upon their reinterment from a Tomb of the Unknown in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii to an appropriately identified plot in Evergreen Cemetery in Braymer and to acknowledge the tremendous societal debt owed to those whose lives have been forfeited in the longstanding battle to ensure freedom and democracy for all; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Payton L. Vanderpool of Missouri.

Offered by _____
 Representative Gary Kelly
 District No. 36

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 4769, adopted December 3, 2003.

 Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker