

HR 9145

2005

1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring Vernon J. Baker, recipient of the
3 Congressional Medal of Honor.

4
5 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Vernon J. Baker joined the United
6 States Army following high school, was ordered to attend Officer
7 Training School, and was commissioned and assigned to the 370th
8 Regiment, 92nd Infantry Division, the first black unit to enter
9 combat during World War II, and

10 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Vernon J. Baker, for personal
11 action against the German enemy while in service to his country
12 in northern Italy in 1945, was selected along with six other
13 African Americans for decoration with the Congressional Medal of
14 Honor, our nation's highest award for intrepidity and valor
15 above and beyond the call of duty, and

16 WHEREAS, on January 13, 1997, First Lieutenant Baker was
17 the only living survivor among those seven so recognized when,
18 in ceremonies in the East Room of the White House, the Medal of
19 Honor was placed around his neck by the hand of President
20 William J. Clinton, and to this day he is the lone living black
21 serviceman from World War II to receive the Medal of Honor, and

22 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Vernon J. Baker, Medal of Honor
23 recipient, visited Florida for a paratrooper exhibition at Eglin
24 Air Force Base in conjunction with his military duties at Fort
25 Bragg, North Carolina, and

26 WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the citizens of
27 Florida express their gratitude to Congressional Medal of Honor

HR 9145

2005

28 recipient Vernon J. Baker for his dedication, valor, and
29 sacrificial service to his nation and theirs, NOW, THEREFORE,
30

31 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
32 Florida:

33

34 That the Members of the House of Representatives, on this
35 26th day of April 2005, express on behalf of this Body and the
36 citizens of the State of Florida, the high esteem with which
37 they regard Vernon J. Baker, a most worthy recipient of the
38 nation's highest honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
40 presented to Vernon J. Baker as a tangible token of the
41 sentiments expressed herein.