
HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE 27TH INFANTRY REGIMENT WOLFHOUNDS FOR ITS PEACE
BRIDGE WITH JAPAN.

1 WHEREAS, World War II devastated Japan. Children who
2 had no parents or family to take care of them were vulnerable
3 and dependent on the mercy of others. The Sisters of Charity of
4 St. Vincent de Paul opened the Holy Family Home in Osaka, Japan,
5 to show kindness to these orphans and provide them with a home
6 that all children should have. Severe lack of funds, however,
7 meant that they lived in poor conditions; and
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9 WHEREAS, fate intervened on Christmas Day in 1949. A
10 Red Cross field representative brought several soldiers from the
11 27th Infantry Regiment, known as the Wolfhounds, to a holiday
12 party at the Holy Family Home. The bad shape of the orphanage
13 melted the men's hearts. On their next payday, they took up a
14 collection, raising \$143.00, which they donated to the home on
15 New Year's morning. By their next payday, all the soldiers in
16 the Regiment knew of the plight of the orphans. As time passed,
17 they adopted the orphanage. For the next half-year, Master
18 Sergeant Hugh O'Reilly led the soldiers to help repair the
19 facility. Soldiers and children came to know each other well.
20 Soon the Wolfhounds began regularly collecting for the Holy
21 Family Home; and
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23 WHEREAS, when the order came for the 27th Infantry
24 Regiment to deploy to Korea, the soldiers feared that the
25 orphanage was in peril. To the surprise of the Sisters, the
26 soldiers continued collecting from their paychecks to provide
27 for the children. The funds they raised during the Korean War
28 occupation helped to build a complex that greatly improved the
29 lives of the children. June 1951 was the last payday for the
30 Wolfhounds. Showing true greatness of heart, the Regiment raised
31 an astonishing and record-breaking sum of \$10,400 for the Holy



1 Family Home. The Sisters sent a letter of deep, heartfelt
2 gratitude for their kindness and generosity; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 1957, the Wolfhounds began a tradition,
5 inviting two children from the Holy Family Home to visit the
6 soldiers and their families stationed in Hawaii. In 1958, the
7 Regiment began sending two soldiers to the Holy Family Home
8 during Christmas to act as "Father Christmas", bearing gifts and
9 offering companionship to bring joy and happiness to the
10 orphans. These traditions and special relationship continue to
11 the present day; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
14 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
15 Session of 2013, that it commends and expresses its admiration
16 and appreciation to the family of Master Sergeant Hugh O'Reilly
17 and the soldiers of the 27th Infantry Regiment for their
18 generosity and kindness toward the orphans of the Holy Family
19 Home, and to the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul for
20 their care of these children, and expresses its best wishes for
21 their success in their future endeavors.

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OFFERED BY:



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