

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Third Extraordinary Session, 1989

S.R.

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By: Senator Benham

SENATE RESOLUTION

ENDORISING THE RENAMING OF HOG ISLAND.

WHEREAS, for the first time since the War of 1812, when the British burned the U.S. Capitol, Japanese Naval Forces on June 3-6, 1942, assaulted the North American continent by attacking Dutch Harbor, the Aleutian Islands, Territory of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the anti-aircraft defense at Dutch Harbor at that time was in part supplied by the 206 Coast Artillery, an Arkansas National Guard unit mustered into service in early 1941, and entrenched at Dutch Harbor since early 1942; and

WHEREAS, the Japanese Naval Forces contemporaneously landed occupying forces on the islands of Attu and Kiska at the western end of the Aleutian chain where they remained until driven out in late May, 1943; and

WHEREAS, Hog Island in Dutch Harbor was occupied by Battery B of the 206 Coast Artillery in mid-summer 1942 to improve the firing ring of the entire anti-aircraft defenses, which occupation continued through the period of all hostilities in the Aleutians and into mid-1944; and

WHEREAS, the 153rd Infantry, another Arkansas National Guard unit, comprised part of the Alaskan defense forces in this same period of time; and

WHEREAS, three Arkansas Guardsmen were lost in the Aleutian campaign above described, including Sgt. James Arthur Allen of Helena, Corporal John Falls Bowen of Altheimer, and Sgt. Cecil Kenneth Dix of Little Rock,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE THIRD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That the Senate hereby endorses the renaming of Hog Island located in

Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, Aleutian Islands, State of Alaska, as "Arkansas Island" in memory and honor of the extended service in the Territory of Alaska in World War II, of these two valiant Arkansas National Guard units and in honor of the lives lost on or near Hog Island, as above recited, and respectfully requests the great State of Alaska to join hands, as appropriate, with representatives of the Arkansas National Guard and the 206 Coast Artillery Association (a non-profit organization) in pursuit to conclusion of the procedures required for renaming the island, Arkansas Island.