



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

30TH INFANTRY DIVISION "OLD HICKORY" DAY

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 30th Infantry Division, known as Old Hickory, was formally activated in 1917 as an Army National Guard division drawing units from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee; Old Hickory was one of two divisions credited with breaking the Hindenburg Line in the Battle of St. Quentin Canal during World War I; and

WHEREAS, on September 10, 1940, Executive Order No. 1 by Governor Clyde Hoey mobilized all elements of the 30th Infantry Division in North Carolina for service in World War II, per request of President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen-Soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division held key terrain and stopped Hitler's counteroffensive at the Battle of Mortain, ensuring Allied victory in the Normandy Campaign in August of 1944; and

WHEREAS, the Citizen-Soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division were the first Allied troops to liberate areas of Belgium and the Netherlands, and breached the Siegfried Line enabling the capture of Aachen, the first major German city captured by Allied forces in October of 1944; Old Hickory spent 282 days in combat, suffered 18,446 casualties, and never failed to accomplish its assigned mission; and

WHEREAS, the European Theater Historian S.L.A. Marshall determined that the 30th Infantry Division was the best infantry division in the European Theater of World War II; the wartime VII Corps Commander, General J. Lawton Collins, made a recommendation for the 30th Infantry Division to be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation and was endorsed by the 1st Army Commander, General Courtney Hodges, and the 12th Army Group Commander, General Omar N. Bradley; and

WHEREAS, this year is the 100th anniversary of the activation of the 30th Infantry Division; as each day passes, we continue to lose members of Old Hickory who served proudly and with distinction during World War II; and

WHEREAS, we commemorate this crucial time in history, and honor the sacrifice, courage, and dedication of all Citizen-Soldiers who served in the 30th Infantry Division known as Old Hickory;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 30, 2017, as "30TH INFANTRY DIVISION 'OLD HICKORY' DAY" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this thirteenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.