

State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

75th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF MORTAIN

2019

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on September 10, 1940, Governor Clyde Hoey signed Executive Order No. 1, mobilizing all elements of the 30th Infantry Division, known as “Old Hickory,” in North Carolina for service in World War II, per the request of President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Mortain, at which the citizen soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division held key terrain in the vicinity of Mortain, France, the decisive point of Hitler’s Normandy counteroffensive meant to defeat the Allied Invasion; and

WHEREAS, from August 6 - 12, 1944, the 13,000 brave soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division held off an onslaught of 80,000 German soldiers from four German Panzer divisions, stopping Hitler’s counteroffensive at the Battle of Mortain and ensuring Allied victory in the Normandy Campaign; and

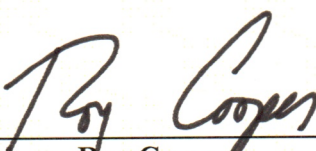
WHEREAS, in 1947 the Army Awards Board cited that if the 30th Infantry Division had failed in its defense of Mortain, it would have caused a revision of Allied plans second only to a failure at Normandy on D-Day; captured German General Kurt Dittmar called the Mortain victory the decisive battle of the west in World War II; and

WHEREAS, the wartime VII Corps Commander General J. Lawton Collins recommended that the 30th Infantry Division be awarded the Presidential Unit Citation; this recommendation was endorsed by both the 1st Army Commander, General Courtney Hodges and the 12th Army Group Commander, General Omar N. Bradley; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina commends the citizen soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division, as well as their families, for their sacrifice and commitment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 6 – 12, 2019 as the “**75th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF MORTAIN**” 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 sixth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.