

RESOLUTION NO. 20190919-092

WHEREAS, Operation Avalanche, the largest amphibious operation by Allied Forces in World War II, landed on the beaches of Paestum, Italy; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Avalanche began on September 9, 1943, required nine days of fighting for Paestum's liberation, and involved more soldiers than D-Day in Normandy, France, yet remains a little-known historical event; and,

WHEREAS, Operation Avalanche was spearheaded by Texas' 36th Infantry Division, which endured over 3,000 deaths and casualties during the battle; and,

WHEREAS, the Texas Military Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas honors the 36th Division's incredible bravery and sacrifice; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Paestum wishes to further commemorate the Lone Star soldiers on the soil where they fought and died, and not only on the land from which they came; and,

WHEREAS, renowned Italian artist Franco Palmentieri has proposed a monument in honor of Texas' 36th Division; and,

WHEREAS, the monument pays homage to the key role played by the Texas 36th Infantry Division in combating hate and fascism, as well as providing a remembrance of Operation Avalanche; and,

WHEREAS, Paestum is also a UNESCO World Heritage site, with three of the world's best-preserved Doric temples among a multitude of other archaeological riches from over two millennia ago; and,

WHEREAS, Austin, the State Capitol of Texas and "Live Music Capital of the World," offers attractions, museums, and festivals; and,

WHEREAS, Austin is a dynamic and progressive city, home to a world-class institution of higher learning, the University of Texas, as well as a multitude of high-tech innovators, and hundreds of technological startups; and,

WHEREAS, the people of Paestum have requested Austin's support for this work of art to commemorate Texas' 36th Infantry Division; and their mayor has invited an official delegation from Austin to view this crucial work and partake in the riches and wonders of their city; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

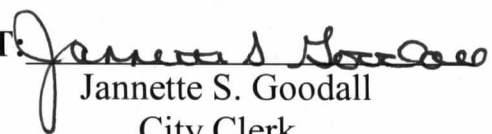
The City of Austin recognizes the historic bonds between Paestum and the City of Austin and extends its strong support for Paestum's efforts to bring the heroic soldiers of Texas' 36th Division the overdue acclaim they deserve;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City of Austin wishes to express its gratitude for the official invitation for local Austin residents to come to Paestum and observe the treasures of the city, including the monumental work to be created by renowned Franco Palmentieri.

ADOPTED: September 19, 2019

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk