

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Thadd Harrison
2 Blanton is being posthumously honored with the unveiling of an
3 Official Texas Historical Marker on February 25, 2023, in
4 Gainesville; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Windthorst and raised in Gainesville, Thadd
6 Blanton attended Southwest Texas State Teachers College before
7 enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1940; he was commissioned as
8 a second lieutenant, and he served as a B-25 pilot with the 37th
9 Bomb Squadron at Pendleton Field in Oregon; and

10 WHEREAS, In early 1942, Captain Blanton volunteered for the
11 Doolittle Raid, a secret mission that was the first World War II
12 attack on the Japanese home islands; serving as copilot of Crew
13 No. 12 of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, he lifted off from the
14 USS *Hornet* aboard the *Fickle Finger of Fate*, a B-25 bomber, on April
15 18 of that year; his crew completed a bombing mission over Yokohama,
16 Japan, and then were forced to bail out over China when their
17 aircraft ran out of fuel; and

18 WHEREAS, This courageous aviator next served with the 7th
19 Bombardment Group and the 341st Bombardment Group in India before
20 flying with the 430th Bomb Squadron and then the 99th Bomb Squadron
21 based at Pinecastle Army Airfield in Florida; from 1946 through
22 1949, he was the test, executive, and operations officer with the
23 First Experimental Guided Missiles Group at Eglin Air Force Base in
24 Florida; his accomplished service was recognized with a series of

1 promotions, and he ultimately attained the rank of lieutenant
2 colonel; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the final years of his career, Lieutenant
4 Colonel Blanton held such roles as commander of the Grand Bahama
5 Auxiliary Air Force Base and commander of the Headquarters Squadron
6 Section, 13th Air Force, at Clark Air Base; in 1959 and 1960, he was
7 special assistant to the deputy chief of staff for operations of the
8 13th Air Force; his commendations included the Distinguished Flying
9 Cross and the Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Corps Medal, Class A,
10 First Grade; he retired on November 15, 1960, and he passed away on
11 September 27, 1961, at the age of 42; and

12 WHEREAS, Demonstrating remarkable heroism, Thadd Blanton
13 courageously served his nation during World War II, and Americans
14 owe a debt to this valiant Texan that the passage of time can never
15 diminish; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commemorate the unveiling of an Official Texas
18 Historical Marker posthumously honoring U.S. Air Force Lieutenant
19 Colonel Thadd Harrison Blanton and extend sincere best wishes to
20 all those in attendance for a meaningful and memorable event; and,
21 be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for the family of Lieutenant Colonel Blanton as an
24 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Spiller

H.R. No. 527

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 527 was adopted by the House on March 16, 2023, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House