

By: Swinford

H.R. No. 139

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For exceptional achievement in the field of
2 aviation, John C. "Red" Morgan is being inducted into the
3 Distinguished Flying Corps Hall of Fame by the Texas Aviation
4 Historical Society on May 31, 2004; and

5 WHEREAS, In spite of Mr. Morgan's strapping six-foot,
6 two-inch frame and 210 pounds, his pre-World War II draft board in
7 Texas rejected him for service because of an earlier accident in
8 which he had broken his neck; undaunted by the board's assessment,
9 Mr. Morgan joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in mid-1940
10 and later, as a member of the RCAF, flew bombers for the Royal Air
11 Force of the United Kingdom; in May 1943, he transferred to the U.S.
12 Army Air Forces as a flight officer and was assigned to the 326th
13 Squadron, 92nd Bomb Group, based at Alconbury, England; and

14 WHEREAS, On July 18, 1943, Second Lieutenant Morgan assumed
15 copilot duties on a B-17 bomber that lifted off as part of a large
16 formation bound for Hanover, Germany; before reaching the Dutch
17 coast, the formation was intercepted by Luftwaffe fighters and
18 Lieutenant Morgan's plane was shelled; the German fire took out the
19 plane's intercom, rendered the tail, waist, and ball-turret gunners
20 unconscious, and caught the pilot, First Lieutenant Robert
21 Campbell, in the head; and

22 WHEREAS, Mortally injured, the burly pilot fell forward,
23 locking his arms around the control column; Lieutenant Morgan had
24 to wrest away control of the aircraft quickly, for the Luftwaffe

1 would have had an easy target in any plane that fell out of
2 formation; rather than remove the pilot's oxygen mask, an act that
3 would have proved fatal at that altitude, Lieutenant Morgan managed
4 to pull the pilot off the column with one arm while he maneuvered
5 the plane back into formation with his other; and

6 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Morgan continued to keep his plane in
7 formation for the next two hours, all the while fighting to restrain
8 the irrational pilot, who fought desperately to regain the
9 controls; during that period the B-17 was shelled again and the top
10 turret gunner severely wounded; Lieutenant Morgan received
11 assistance only after the formation reached its target, when the
12 navigator was at last able to go to the cockpit to investigate the
13 cause of the plane's erratic flight; and

14 WHEREAS, For his heroic action on that day, Lieutenant Morgan
15 received the Medal of Honor, this nation's highest decoration for
16 valor; he volunteered for several more missions and was
17 subsequently shot down during the first raid on Berlin, on March 6,
18 1944; and

19 WHEREAS, After spending 14 months as a POW, Lieutenant Morgan
20 regained his freedom at the end of the war in Europe; he was
21 recalled to the service during the Korean War and retired
22 completely from the military in 1954; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to the Medal of Honor, this courageous
24 pilot was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal
25 with one oak leaf cluster; and

26 WHEREAS, John Morgan joined Texaco in 1938 and returned to
27 the company each time he was released from military duty; he retired

1 as division manager of the International Aviation Sales Department
2 after 39 years' service with the corporation; Mr. Morgan died in
3 Nebraska in 1991 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery; and

4 WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting that Mr. Morgan be
5 recognized for his extraordinary accomplishment in completing his
6 mission and bringing his crew back safely on that brutal July day
7 and that a chronicle of his valor be preserved at the English Field
8 Air & Space Museum for this and future generations; now, therefore,
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
11 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the
12 memory of John C. "Red" Morgan on the occasion of his induction into
13 the Distinguished Flying Corps Hall of Fame by the Texas Aviation
14 Historical Society; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Mr. Morgan's family as an expression of high regard by
17 the Texas House of Representatives.