

By: Swinford

H.R. No. 140

R E S O L U T I O N

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

5 WHEREAS, Born in Urbana, Illinois, on July 18, 1923,
6 Mr. Izzard grew up in Amarillo and graduated from Amarillo High
7 School in 1940; he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps on December 26,
8 1943, and over the ensuing months he flew 150 missions as a fighter
9 pilot in Europe; the battles and campaigns in which he was engaged
10 included the Rhineland, Ardennes, Central Europe, Air Offensive
11 Europe, Northern France, and Normandy; and

12 WHEREAS, On June 8, 1944, two days after D-Day, his plane was
13 disabled by enemy fire and he was forced to bail out over
14 German-occupied France; assisted by a farmer and by members of the
15 French Resistance, he eluded German soldiers for more than three
16 months before he was able to rejoin his comrades; and

17 WHEREAS, The following year, First Lieutenant Izzard won the
18 Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroic actions over Germany;
19 while participating in combined ground-air operations on March 9,
20 1945, he was compelled by poor weather conditions to fly at a
21 dangerously low altitude; in spite of heavy damage to his P-47
22 Thunderbolt, he continued to aggressively bomb and strafe a large
23 German convoy until his ammunition gave out, and his vigorous
24 assault, conducted without regard for his personal safety, played a

1 significant role in enabling the Allied ground forces in that
2 sector to advance; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Izzard was released from active duty on November
4 23, 1945, having also earned the Purple Heart, the Presidential
5 Unit Citation, and the Air Medal with 14 oak leaf clusters; and

6 WHEREAS, Back in the States, Mr. Izzard completed a
7 bachelor's degree at the University of Illinois in 1947 and then
8 returned to Amarillo, where he worked for many years as a radio and
9 television journalist; this esteemed Texan served as news director
10 at KGNC-AM-FM-TV from 1948 to 1970 and also covered the Vietnam War;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, After retiring as a newsman, Mr. Izzard established
13 Tangleaire Press with his wife, the late Kathryn Mary Richart, and
14 began writing books; he has published two volumes about his
15 experiences as a fighter pilot, as well as a number of works
16 concerning the Red River War; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Izzard maintains membership in the P-47
18 Thunderbolt Pilots Association, Escape and Evasion Society, and
19 Texas Aviation Historical Society; and

20 WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting that Mr. Izzard be
21 recognized for his valiant service as a fighter pilot with the U.S.
22 Army Air Corps and that a chronicle of his outstanding military
23 record be preserved at the English Field Air & Space Museum for this
24 and future generations; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
26 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby honor Wesley R. "Bob"
27 Izzard on his induction into the Distinguished Flying Corps Hall of

H.R. No. 140

1 Fame by the Texas Aviation Historical Society; and, be it further
2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Mr. Izzard as an expression of high regard by the Texas
4 House of Representatives.