

By: Williams

S.C.R. No. 53

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Charles Edward Taylor, who built the first engines
2 for Orville and Wilbur Wright's airplanes, made an incalculable
3 contribution to the development of aviation; and

4 WHEREAS, Born May 24, 1868, in Illinois, Mr. Taylor began
5 working as a machinist for the two brothers at the Wright Cycle
6 Company in Dayton, Ohio, in 1902; after six weeks on the job, he had
7 built the first engine used to power the Wright Flyer, and his place
8 in aviation history was secured with the Wright brothers' first
9 successful flight at Kitty Hawk on December 17, 1903; and

10 WHEREAS, In the early years of the fledgling industry, Mr.
11 Taylor maintained a constant presence in aviation development; he
12 continued to design and build aircraft engines and accompanied the
13 Wright brothers to flight demonstrations in Europe, United States
14 government test flights in Fort Myer, Virginia, and further
15 demonstrations at the Hudson-Fulton Exposition in New York;
16 moreover, he served as the mechanic for the first successful
17 transcontinental flight in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor's career in aviation construction and
19 maintenance spanned more than 60 years, and the Federal Aviation
20 Administration has honored this achievement with the establishment
21 of the Charles Edward Taylor Master Mechanic Award, which
22 recognizes persons with 50 or more years of aviation maintenance
23 experience; and

24 WHEREAS, Charles Edward Taylor played a fundamental role in

1 the early development of powered flight, and the exacting vocation
2 he pioneered has become an essential part of the fabric of modern
3 life; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
5 hereby declare May 24, 2003, as Aviation Maintenance Technician Day
6 in Texas in tribute to Charles Edward Taylor and to all aviation
7 maintenance technicians who have followed in his footsteps.