

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 148**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to the life of Colonel James P. Lyle and to recognize his bravery and heroism in averting a major disaster when his aircraft went down off the coast of Nantucket Island in 1967; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Lyle was a 26-year veteran of the United States Air Force when his radar reconnaissance aircraft caught fire on April 25, 1967; he elected to ditch the plane into the Atlantic Ocean in order to avoid crashing onto the island; the fiery crash took his life along with the lives of 14 other members of his crew from the 551st Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing at Otis Air Force Base in Massachusetts; and

**WHEREAS**, James P. Lyle was born in Springtown, Texas, in 1920 and graduated from North Texas State College in Denton in 1939; he attended flight school and was assigned to the Mediterranean Theater as commander of the 827th Bomb Squadron in Italy during World War II; he served during the Korean War also and flew numerous combat missions over the years; and

**WHEREAS**, Among his decorations are the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star, Air Force Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with one oak leaf cluster, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and French Croix de Guerre with one palm; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Lyle was married to Juanita Musgrave Lyle and the couple had two children, James L. Lyle, Jr., and

Jana Lyle, who were 22 and 15 years old at the time of their father's death; both Colonel and Mrs. Lyle, who died in 1998, are buried at Fort Sam Houston Military Cemetery in San Antonio; and

**WHEREAS**, An exemplary military leader, Colonel Lyle served his country well, and his memory will be treasured forever by his family, his friends, and the many people whose lives he touched; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby honor the memory of Colonel James P. Lyle and express appreciation for his outstanding leadership and dedication to his country; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 12, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate