

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 284

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Lieutenant General Bruce Carlson has been named  
2 honorary balloonmeister for the 2005 Great Texas Balloon Race, and  
3 his selection for this tribute is in keeping with this year's  
4 patriotic theme, "A Salute to the Military"; and

5           WHEREAS, General Carlson currently serves as commander of the  
6 8th Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, and Joint  
7 Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike,  
8 U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; and

9           WHEREAS, A native of Hibbing, Minnesota, and a skilled and  
10 experienced pilot, General Carlson oversees the war-fighting  
11 capability and the operational readiness of the "Mighty Eighth's"  
12 B-2 Spirit and B-52 Stratofortress bombers, as well as several  
13 other planes piloted by members of the 8th Air Force; and

14           WHEREAS, General Carlson is an accomplished graduate of the  
15 University of Minnesota's Air Force ROTC program; he was  
16 commissioned in 1971 and is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Fighter  
17 Weapons School; he also holds masters of arts degrees from Webster  
18 University and the Naval War College; and

19           WHEREAS, The Great Texas Balloon Race takes place on July  
20 8-10, 2005, at the East Texas Regional Airport in Longview; the race  
21 was created in 1978 by world-record-holding hot air balloon pilot  
22 Dr. Bill Bussey, D.D.S., and Longview Mall managers Frankie Parson  
23 Riggins and Mary Le Tourneau as a promotional event to mark the  
24 grand opening of Longview Mall, and through the years it has grown

1 to become the premier hot air balloon race in Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, General Carlson joins a long list of distinguished  
3 individuals who have served as honorary balloonmeister at the Great  
4 Texas Balloon Race, and his participation in this unique event will  
5 undoubtedly be an unforgettable experience for this respected  
6 military leader; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
8 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby recognize Lieutenant  
9 General Bruce Carlson for his service as honorary balloonmeister at  
10 the 2005 Great Texas Balloon Race and commend him for his  
11 distinguished service to this nation; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for General Carlson as an expression of high regard by the  
14 Texas House of Representatives.