

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166

WHEREAS, Colonel Anthony A. Imondi is celebrating his retirement after 30 years of distinguished service in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Born in Providence, Rhode Island, in 1953, he developed a love of aviation at a young age and followed his passion to the aeronautics program at Dowling College in Oakdale, New York, where he graduated first in his class; commissioned as an air force officer in April 1976, he completed pilot school and began his career flying B-52 missions from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana; after being promoted to captain, this versatile aviator transferred his skills to the FB-111 bomber in 1982 and spent the next six years at bases in New York and New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, then Major Imondi took his ample skills as pilot and problem-solver to a new project: the operational testing and evaluation of the air force's newest combat aircraft, the B-2 "stealth" bomber; his vital input and expertise with the plane gained him the honor of becoming Strategic Air Command's first B-2 pilot in 1991 and one of the first two people to serve as B-2 instructors in the Air Combat Command; and

WHEREAS, Having moved to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, where the B-2 program is based, Major Imondi became deputy commander of the 509th Operations Group and was promoted to colonel; after attending the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and spending two years analyzing weapons-testing issues for the secretary of defense, Colonel Imondi returned to Whiteman Air Force Base in 1998, this time as commander of the 509th; under his direction, the B-2 was put through its highly successful combat debut in 1999 as part of the Operation Allied Force attacks against Serbian forces in eastern Europe, which proved the abilities of this high-technology bomber; and

WHEREAS, The following year, Colonel Imondi took up yet another new challenge, becoming vice commander of the 2nd Bomb Wing, which brought him back to Barksdale, the base where he had begun his air force flying career; as United States forces moved to a combat footing following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, this courageous American deployed to Afghanistan as vice commander of the 28th Air Expeditionary Wing, overseeing combat missions as part of Operation Enduring Freedom; the final years of his distinguished military career were spent at the headquarters of the Air Education and Training Command, where he was chief of readiness and chief of flying training; and

WHEREAS, A highly decorated officer, Colonel Imondi has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device, the Armed Forces Service Medal, the Combat Readiness Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Air and Space Campaign Medal; and

WHEREAS, In earning these honors and compiling his illustrious command record, Colonel Imondi drew on the steadfast support of his wife, Kathy LaQuey Imondi, and the love of their three sons, Scott, Brad, and Zach; and

WHEREAS, A command pilot who has logged more than 5,400 hours in 30 different military aircraft, Anthony Imondi has certainly fulfilled his youthful dream of becoming a military aviator; but more than this, he has become an innovative and respected commander who has devoted his career to strengthening the defenses of the United States, and he stands as an inspiring example of America's proud military tradition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor Colonel Anthony A. Imondi as he retires from the United States Air Force and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Colonel Imondi as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Carona

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 8, 2006.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate