

By: Orr

H.C.R. No. 118

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The members of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport
2 Squadron 234 (VMGR-234), based at NAS Fort Worth, Joint Reserve
3 Base, have rendered exceptional service to their country during
4 their mobilization for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation
5 Iraqi Freedom as part of the Global War on Terrorism; and

6 WHEREAS, A detachment of six aircraft and more than half the
7 squadron personnel from VMGR-234 were mobilized in January 2002 to
8 serve overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom; from February through
9 May and from July to November 2002, the VMGR-234 deployed aircraft
10 and personnel to forward operating bases in Bahrain, Afghanistan,
11 Pakistan, and Kyrgyzstan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom
12 and to assist various ground and aviation units in the Middle East;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, In January 2003, all remaining reserve personnel and
15 aircraft were mobilized for service in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and
16 the entire unit remained mobilized until January 2005; from January
17 through October 2003, the squadron supported combat and
18 nation-building activities in Iraq while attached to the First
19 Marine Expeditionary Force; between the summer of 2002 and January
20 2005, the Marines of VMGR-234 also supported operations and
21 training in Kosovo and the eastern Mediterranean, Okinawa, Korea,
22 Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Horn of Africa; most of these
23 deployments were in direct support of the Global War on Terrorism
24 and other U.S. military operations; and

1 WHEREAS, During the three years of their mobilization, the
2 dedicated Marines of VMGR-234 flew more than 6,700 sorties and
3 logged over 17,500 flight hours, of which almost 14,000 were logged
4 overseas; the squadron carried nearly 41,000 passengers, delivered
5 more than 22 million pounds of cargo, and supplied over 15 million
6 pounds of fuel to fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters through
7 in-air refueling; and

8 WHEREAS, This gallant squadron received the Presidential
9 Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action in Iraq in the
10 spring of 2003; and

11 WHEREAS, Through their courage, professionalism, and
12 unfaltering commitment to duty, the members of VMGR-234 exemplify
13 the highest standards of the United States Marine Corps, and their
14 fellow citizens owe them an immeasurable debt of gratitude for
15 their steadfast efforts in serving this nation; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby honor all those who have served in the U.S. Marine Corps
19 since September 11, 2001, and especially commend the members of
20 Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234 for their valiant and
21 selfless service in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.