

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 871

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, U.S. Army Air Corps and Air Force veteran Bill
2 Palmer bravely and proudly served his country during World War II,
3 flying nearly 60 missions, and he is most deserving of praise for
4 his heroism and patriotism; and

5 WHEREAS, Spurred to duty after the bombing of Pearl Harbor,
6 young Bill Palmer secured a spot in the U.S. Army Air Corps flight
7 program through ingenuity and initiative, an endeavor that enabled
8 him to achieve his long-sought dream of learning to fly; after
9 completing his initial training, he was assigned to Columbia, South
10 Carolina, in the fall of 1943 to train in the North American B-25
11 Mitchell Bomber, a medium-sized twin-engine plane; and

12 WHEREAS, After completing his B-25 training, then-Lieutenant
13 Palmer hopscotched a bomber in 1,500-mile increments from Georgia
14 to Tunisia, where he was assigned to the 489th Bombardment Squadron
15 of the 340th Bombardment Group of the 57th Bomb Wing in the 12th Air
16 Force; he flew several missions in Africa and also supported troops
17 as they took control of Sicily, Sardinia, and Corsica; later, he
18 participated in numerous strategic bombing raids designed to
19 disrupt the enemy's ability to supply its troops; and

20 WHEREAS, During the course of his years of service in Africa
21 and Europe, he was promoted from lieutenant to captain to major;
22 while stationed in Italy, he was twice shot down by antiaircraft
23 fire and was forced to crash-land in enemy territory; he spent many
24 weeks behind enemy lines, but thanks to the aid of Italian

1 partisans, he was able to find his way back to the relative safety
2 of Allied territory; and

3 WHEREAS, This skilled pilot retired from the U.S. Air Force
4 Reserve as a colonel in the 1960s, and he maintains his love of
5 flying to this day; his courage and valor earned him two
6 Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, and two
7 Purple Hearts, while his willingness to risk his life in defense of
8 freedom and democracy has earned him the lasting respect of a
9 nation; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor Colonel Bill Palmer for his superlative
12 career with the U.S. Army Air Corps and U.S. Air Force Reserve and
13 commend him for his exemplary service in battle during World War II;
14 and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Colonel Palmer as an expression of highest regard by
17 the Texas House of Representatives.