

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 813

**WHEREAS**, Lieutenant Colonel Lance C. Wade of Reklaw demonstrated extraordinary courage in his service to his country during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, Born in Broaddus in 1915, Colonel Wade joined Britain's Royal Air Force before the United States had officially entered the war; the State of Texas provided more volunteers for the Royal Air Force than any other state, and in less than three years, Colonel Wade climbed the ranks of the British military to achieve the status of wing commander; he eventually became the top American fighter pilot, flying Hurricanes and Spitfires in the North African campaign and achieving 25 victories, an unprecedented number for an American fighter ace serving exclusively in a foreign air force; and

**WHEREAS**, For his outstanding service, Colonel Wade was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross with two bars, representing three awards, and a Distinguished Service Order; and

**WHEREAS**, From a farm in East Texas, where he was raised, to a meeting with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and a tea with King George VI, Colonel Wade aptly described his fortuitous path when he said, "Before the Royal Air Force, my life consisted of surveying land from the backside of a mule. Now I have had tea with the King of England and his family."; and

**WHEREAS**, Colonel Wade's family and friends mourned his passing on January 12, 1944, while serving his country in Foggia, Italy, but they took comfort in knowing that he lived a fulfilling life, dedicated to patriotism and freedom; this distinguished fighter ace represented the essential relationship between Britain and the United States during World War II, and it is a pleasure to recognize his admirable achievements; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Lieutenant Colonel Lance C. Wade, who was a true American hero, and extend to his descendants deepest gratitude for his valiant service on behalf of his country.

Wentworth

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 9, 2005.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate