

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 180

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, With his brilliant planning and inspiring
2 leadership, General James Harold Doolittle carried out one of the
3 most courageous deeds in military history as a pilot in the United
4 States Army Air Force during World War II; and

5 WHEREAS, On April 18, 1942, "Jimmy" Doolittle led the first
6 U.S. air strike on the Japanese home islands in what is known today
7 as the Doolittle Raid; this dangerous mission helped to boost the
8 morale of the American public in the wake of the attack on Pearl
9 Harbor by proving that the Japanese islands were not invulnerable;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, A prominent aviator and aeronautical engineer,
12 General Doolittle had instructed Air Corps students in aerial
13 gunnery and tactics during World War I, and during the 1920s, he
14 made a record-breaking transcontinental flight, won the biggest air
15 racing trophies of the time, and played an important role in the
16 development of instrument flying; he earned his doctorate from MIT
17 and in 1940 became the president of the Institute of Aeronautical
18 Science; and

19 WHEREAS, After the devastating events at Pearl Harbor,
20 Lieutenant Colonel Doolittle returned to active duty in the Air
21 Corps and, with Captain Francis S. Low and Lieutenant General Henry
22 H. Arnold, developed a bold plan for an air strike on Japanese soil;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Because no bases were available in China for a heavy

1 bomb attack and because Navy carrier aircraft lacked both range and
2 bomb load for such a mission, it was decided that Army Air Forces
3 bombers would be flown from carrier ships in the Pacific;
4 servicemen from the 17th Bombardment Group and the 89th
5 Reconnaissance Squadron bravely volunteered to perform this
6 dangerous and audacious maneuver; and

7 WHEREAS, Called a "master of calculated risk," Lieutenant
8 Colonel Doolittle was the first off the deck when the mission was
9 launched 30 hours ahead of schedule and more than 200 miles farther
10 off the coast than was planned; he skillfully flew through the wind,
11 rain, and low clouds, guiding the way for his crew; the Japanese
12 were taken by surprise, and all but one B-25 hit their targets; and

13 WHEREAS, General Doolittle's unwavering courage and
14 steadfast leadership on that day earned him the admiration of a
15 nation and led him to become the first airman in World War II to be
16 awarded the Medal of Honor, which was presented to him on May 20,
17 1942, by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; and

18 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Jimmy Doolittle exemplified
19 the ideal of those in military service; his actions and
20 accomplishments are an inspiration to all Americans, and it is
21 truly appropriate that he be honored for his notable contributions
22 as a soldier and patriot; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby honor the life of James Harold Doolittle and pay tribute to
25 his exceptional military aviation achievements that truly
26 influenced not only the course of World War II, but also the future
27 of the world.