

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 207

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Retired Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole of the
2 United States Air Force is an admired veteran of the famous
3 Doolittle Raid against Japan in World War II and the last surviving
4 member of General Jimmy Doolittle's crew on that mission; and

5 WHEREAS, One of the most daring and important American
6 actions of World War II, Doolittle's Raid was intended to
7 demonstrate the reach of American military power against the enemy
8 only four months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; and

9 WHEREAS, On April 18, 1942, under the command of Lieutenant
10 Colonel Jimmy Doolittle, 16 B-25 Mitchell bombers manned by
11 volunteers lifted off from the aircraft carrier the USS *Hornet* 600
12 miles from Japan; taking off 200 miles further from Japan than they
13 had planned, these extraordinarily courageous young pilots
14 embarked on their mission knowing they could not land again on the
15 carrier and that they may not have had enough fuel to fly to
16 airfields in China; their surprise attack on targets in and around
17 Tokyo shattered the enemy's illusion of invulnerability and
18 enormously boosted American morale in the desperate early months of
19 World War II; and

20 WHEREAS, General Doolittle's co-pilot on the raid, Richard
21 Cole had answered his nation's call to duty by enlisting in 1940,
22 and he completed his pilot training at Kelly Air Force Base in San
23 Antonio as a second lieutenant in 1941; and

24 WHEREAS, After the raid, Lieutenant Cole remained in Asia

1 until 1944, piloting cargo planes; he then continued his tenure in
2 the Air Force after the war, serving in California, Texas, Ohio, and
3 North Carolina; from 1959 to 1962 he was an operations advisor to
4 the Venezuelan Air Force; since his retirement as a lieutenant
5 colonel in 1967, Richard Cole has lived in Texas, most recently in
6 the Hill Country near Comfort in Kendall County; and

7 WHEREAS, He has deservedly been honored for his military
8 career with a number of decorations, including the Distinguished
9 Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with one Oak
10 Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal,
11 and the Chinese Army, Navy, Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade; and

12 WHEREAS, A valiant American who risked all to aid his country
13 at a crucial moment in its history, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole
14 exemplifies the highest ideals of military service, and his long
15 and illustrious career in the armed forces distinguishes him as an
16 inspiring figure of whom all Texans can be justifiably proud; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby commend Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole for his exemplary
20 service to this nation and extend sincere appreciation to him for
21 his remarkable heroism; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Lieutenant Colonel Cole as an expression of high
24 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.