

By: Dukes

H.C.R. No. 265

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Major James R. Stegall (Ret.) of Austin rendered
2 exceptional service to this country as an aviator in two wars and as
3 a career officer in the United States Army; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Bullard on February 6, 1922, and raised in
5 East Austin, Major Stegall enlisted in the Texas Army National
6 Guard directly after his graduation from Austin High School in
7 1940; he was mobilized into federal service on November 25, 1940, as
8 part of the 36th Infantry Division; and

9 WHEREAS, Major Stegall shipped out with the 36th Infantry for
10 North Africa in April 1943 and saw his first combat the following
11 September, when American forces established a beachhead at Salerno,
12 Italy; appointed as a liaison pilot, Major Stegall served as a
13 forward observer for the artillery, spotting targets and adjusting
14 artillery fire to increase its effectiveness exponentially; he
15 performed this duty flying at 55 miles per hour in unarmed,
16 single-engine Piper Cub L-4s, known as Grasshoppers, which measured
17 a mere 21 feet in length and 35 feet from wing tip to wing tip;
18 Major Stegall's tour of duty in Italy extended into 1944 and
19 included service at Rapido River; and

20 WHEREAS, At the conclusion of World War II, Major Stegall
21 decided to make the army his career; subsequently designated an
22 army aviator, he saw combat again in the Korean War, flying
23 Grasshoppers once more in support of artillery; after landing with
24 the 7th Infantry Division at Incheon in September 1950, he took part

1 in the push to the Yalu River, in fighting near the Chosin
2 Reservoir, and later in the drive back to the 38th parallel; and

3 WHEREAS, Time and again, Major Stegall demonstrated
4 unflinching courage and tenacity; once in Italy, a group of German
5 fighters shot his wing strut in half, but he was able to land his
6 plane, jump into another, and continue his mission; in Korea, when
7 the Chinese overran American troops and some of the latter were left
8 behind, encircled by the enemy, Major Stegall returned to the
9 trapped soldiers seven times to bring out the wounded, in spite of
10 intense ground fire; and

11 WHEREAS, Major Stegall was awarded the Silver Star with one
12 Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf
13 Cluster, the Air Medal with 25 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army
14 Commendation Ribbon, and a host of service medals and appendages;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, This valiant Texan retired from the service in 1961;
17 he and his wife, Doris, now make their home in East Austin, where
18 they have long resided; and

19 WHEREAS, In recognition of his outstanding military record,
20 the Texas Aviation Association has nominated Major Stegall for
21 induction into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame at the Lone Star
22 Flight Museum in Galveston; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby extend to Major James R. Stegall its profound appreciation
25 for a job well done and recommend that he be inducted into the Texas
26 Aviation Hall of Fame; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Major Stegall and forwarded to the Texas Aviation Hall
2 of Fame and the Lone Star Flight Museum as an expression of high
3 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.