

By: Quintanilla

H.R. No. 1427

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The history of Naval Aviation Torpedo Squadron Three
2 (VT-3) in World War II is one of heroism, sacrifice, and high
3 achievement; and

4 WHEREAS, Assigned to the aircraft carrier the USS *Saratoga*
5 before the war, VT-3 operated from the carrier *Yorktown* (CV-5) in
6 1942 during the pivotal Battle of Midway, losing many pilots and
7 planes; and

8 WHEREAS, The following year the reconstituted squadron
9 accompanied the *Saratoga* to the South Pacific, where it flew combat
10 missions and provided air cover for American forces in and around
11 the Solomon Islands; and

12 WHEREAS, The squadron returned to Sand Point Naval Air
13 Station in Seattle in late 1943, at which time older members were
14 reassigned to other units and new members were added to the group;
15 after training in various locations in Washington state and Hawaii,
16 the squadron returned to combat duty in November 1944, as part of
17 Carrier Air Group 3 (CVG-3), operating from the new Essex class
18 carrier USS *Yorktown* (CV-10); and

19 WHEREAS, Flying Grumman TBF and TBM Avenger torpedo bombers,
20 the brave pilots of VT-3 saw a good deal of action for the next 16
21 months; in the Philippines they supported the invasions of Leyte
22 and Luzon, and from the South China Sea, they flew missions against
23 targets in Indochina, Formosa, Hong Kong, and Okinawa; they
24 contributed to the end of the war by taking part in the first

1 carrier strikes against Tokyo and by providing air support for the
2 invasion of Iwo Jima; and

3 WHEREAS, In March, 1945, the squadron returned to the Naval
4 Auxiliary Air Facility in Lewiston, Maine, where it stayed until
5 the end of the war; and

6 WHEREAS, For its long and exemplary service, VT-3 earned four
7 Presidential Unit Citations and six Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
8 Medals; Lieutenant Frank F. Frazier was awarded the Silver Star for
9 his actions against enemy targets in Formosa; and

10 WHEREAS, Since 1986 the veterans of VT-3 have been meeting in
11 reunions, first on their old ship, the *Yorktown*, now moored in
12 Charleston Harbor, South Carolina, and later in various locations
13 around the country; out of the 94 officers and men who served with
14 the squadron, 40 have been located; and

15 WHEREAS, With courage and selfless devotion to their country
16 and to each other, the men of Torpedo Squadron Three fought hard in
17 defense of freedom, flying dangerous missions in difficult
18 circumstances, and these honorable veterans have earned the lasting
19 respect and gratitude of their fellow citizens; now, therefore, be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby commend the members of Naval Aviation Torpedo
23 Squadron Three for their valiant service during World War II and
24 extend to them sincere best wishes for the future.