

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 46

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Commemorative Air Force is dedicated to
2 acquiring, restoring, and preserving in operating condition a
3 complete collection of the combat aircraft flown by every military
4 service of the United States, as well as selected aircraft of other
5 nations; and

6 WHEREAS, Founded in 1957 by former American service pilots in
7 the Rio Grande Valley, the CAF is now based in Midland and has been
8 recognized since 1972 as the official Air Force of the State of
9 Texas; today the CAF has 75 units around the world, and its more
10 than 9,000 members fly and maintain a CAF fleet of over 170 vintage
11 warplanes; and

12 WHEREAS, One of these rare crafts is the oldest and only
13 flight-worthy B-24A Liberator in existence; known as "Ol' 927" and
14 based at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum in Addison, this plane will
15 soon be embarking on its Land of Liberty Tour, a statewide tour of
16 Texas for the purpose of encouraging a renewed appreciation for
17 patriotism and freedom among students and adults alike; informative
18 programming for this occasion is to be provided by the American
19 Airpower Heritage Museum, the educational complement to the CAF;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Located at the Midland International Airport and
22 consistently voted the top local tourist attraction by the
23 surrounding community, the CAF Airpower Museum is nationally
24 accredited by the American Association of Museums and has recently

1 been named an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution; its mission
2 is to preserve the complete history of World War II military
3 aviation and the memory of the men and women who built, serviced,
4 and flew U.S. military aircraft in that conflict; and

5 WHEREAS, Each year, in tribute to their personal sacrifice,
6 courage under fire, and faith in American values, several
7 individuals and a combat unit are inducted into the museum's
8 American Combat Airman Hall of Fame; following the recognition of
9 the honorees at an annual banquet, their induction panels and
10 videos are added as permanent exhibits in the Hall of Fame gallery;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The CAF has also instituted the Texas Medal of Honor
13 Memorial at CAF International Headquarters; an eight-foot bronze
14 figure of Medal of Honor recipient and Midland resident George H.
15 O'Brien, Jr., stands at the entrance of the gallery, next to a black
16 granite plinth that lists all Texas Medal of Honor winners, from the
17 Civil War to the present day, while display cases upstairs
18 elaborate on the heroism of the memorial's namesake; exhibit panels
19 recounting the valor of other recipients are unveiled annually at a
20 CAF banquet; and

21 WHEREAS, In meeting the complex challenges of the world
22 today, it is vital that our citizenry remember the lessons of the
23 past, and the Commemorative Air Force is making a crucial
24 contribution to that end through its outstanding work in preserving
25 the military aviation history of this country; now, therefore, be
26 it

27 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas

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1 hereby honor the Commemorative Air Force for its inspiring
2 educational programs and for its crucial efforts to preserve the
3 history of American military aviation; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for the Commemorative Air Force as an expression of high
6 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.