

By: Miklos

H.R. No. 773

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Retired U.S. Navy commander Charles Stackhouse is
2 celebrating his 69th birthday on March 13, 2009, and this occasion
3 provides a welcome opportunity to pay tribute to this heroic
4 veteran of our armed forces; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Wisconsin in 1940 and raised in Ohio,
6 Charlie Stackhouse entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1957 and
7 played for the Navy football team while completing his studies as a
8 midshipman; after graduating from flight training, he joined the
9 VA-76 squadron and was a carrier jet pilot aboard the USS *Enterprise*
10 and the USS *Bonhomme Richard*; and

11 WHEREAS, Commander Stackhouse completed 130 combat missions
12 in the course of his career, but a fateful flight on April 25, 1967,
13 changed the course of his life; while engaged in aerial combat over
14 North Vietnam, his plane was shot down, and he was captured by the
15 enemy; a prisoner of war for nearly six years, this courageous
16 officer was able to endure the hardships of confinement thanks to
17 his spiritual faith, his patriotic ideals, and the support of his
18 fellow prisoners; and

19 WHEREAS, After gaining his freedom, Commander Stackhouse
20 continued his naval service and furthered his education by
21 graduating from the MBA program at Southern Methodist University
22 and the U.S. Navy Legal School, in addition to completing other
23 courses of study; he distinguished himself in several senior
24 managerial positions and ultimately retired from the Navy in 1996;

1 during his years in uniform, he earned numerous decorations,
2 including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Service Medal, 2
3 Purple Hearts, 10 Air Medals, and the Legion of Merit and the Bronze
4 Star, both with "V" designations; and

5 WHEREAS, Commander Stackhouse and his wife, Wilma, reside in
6 East Texas, where they enjoy spending time on their farm with their
7 horses, Sadie and Cinnamon, their dogs, Callie, Annie, and Buddie,
8 and their cat, Tiger; Mr. Stackhouse frequently makes speeches in
9 Texas and around the country in which he recounts his experiences
10 and the lessons he learned in the course of his valiant service; and

11 WHEREAS, An admirable American who bravely served his country
12 and persevered in the face of extreme difficulty, Charles
13 Stackhouse has fulfilled the highest expectations of the United
14 States armed forces, and it is a pleasure to extend birthday
15 greetings to him and to commend him for his outstanding military
16 career; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor Charles Stackhouse on the occasion of his
19 69th birthday and extend to him best wishes for continued
20 happiness; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Commander Stackhouse as an expression of high regard
23 by the Texas House of Representatives.