

By: Phillips

H.R. No. 1891

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Veteran pilot and Texas native Captain Chesley
2 Burnett "Sully" Sullenberger III demonstrated extraordinary skill
3 and composure when he landed his crippled commercial airliner on
4 the Hudson River on January 15, 2009, saving the lives of his
5 passengers and crew while also avoiding all the traffic on the river
6 in an incident that has come to be known as "the miracle on the
7 Hudson"; and

8 WHEREAS, On that fateful day, Captain Sullenberger was
9 piloting a U.S. Airways flight with 155 people on board out of
10 LaGuardia Airport in New York City; moments after takeoff, each of
11 the plane's engines was struck by birds and shut down; and

12 WHEREAS, Realizing that the airplane would be unable to make
13 it to a runway for an emergency landing, Captain Sullenberger, in a
14 breathtaking display of expertise, courage, and resolve, put the
15 81-ton aircraft safely down on the waters of the Hudson River; and

16 WHEREAS, The passengers were evacuated onto the wings of the
17 plane and into rafts; a few suffered minor injuries, but no lives
18 were lost; after checking the waterlogged cabin twice to make sure
19 no one was left behind, Captain Sullenberger was the last to leave
20 the plane; and

21 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Denison, where a street is named
22 for his pioneering family, Captain Sullenberger is a
23 fourth-generation Texan; even before this harrowing incident, he
24 had won great distinction as an aviator, earning his pilot's

1 license at the age of 14 and logging more than 19,000 hours of
2 flying time in the course of his career; he is a graduate of the U.S.
3 Air Force Academy, where he received the Outstanding Cadet in
4 Airmanship Award given to the top flier in each graduating class,
5 and he flew F-4 Phantom fighters for the Air Force for seven years,
6 attaining the rank of captain; and

7 WHEREAS, Captain Sullenberger has been a pilot for U.S.
8 Airways since 1980, and he is a flight instructor and a highly
9 respected expert in aviation safety; he has investigated aviation
10 accidents for the Air Force and the National Transportation Safety
11 Board; and

12 WHEREAS, A consummate pilot and a selfless steward of the
13 lives in his care, "Sully" Sullenberger is most worthy of the
14 worldwide acclaim he has won for his lifesaving actions, and it is
15 indeed a pleasure to pay tribute to this remarkable Texan; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor Captain Chesley B. Sullenberger III as a
19 true Texas hero for his heroic rescue of all those aboard U.S.
20 Airways Flight 1549 on January 15, 2009, and extend to him sincere
21 best wishes for nothing but blue skies ahead; and, be it further

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