

By: King of Taylor

H.C.R. No. 18

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The men and women of Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene
2 are celebrating the completion of their fleet of C-130J Super
3 Hercules aircraft with the delivery of the final airplane on July
4 25, 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, The C-130 military transport aircraft is the
6 versatile workhorse of the American military, capable of landing
7 and taking off on unprepared runways; first put into service in
8 1957, generations of these airplanes have since been deployed
9 around the world transporting troops and cargo to combat zones,
10 evacuating the wounded, delivering medical supplies and food during
11 natural disasters, fighting wildfires, and performing search and
12 rescue operations, among other tasks; and

13 WHEREAS, On February 8, 1961, the 64th Troop Carrier Wing was
14 activated at Dyess Air Force Base, initiating a half-century
15 tradition of providing support to America's defenders all around
16 the globe; early versions of the C-130 from the base responded to
17 the Cuban Missile Crisis and delivered supplies to Distant Early
18 Warning radar sites in the Arctic; later models of the plane from
19 Dyess have flown missions under fire to Vietnam, Grenada, and
20 Bosnia; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the years, the torch has been passed to the
22 516th Tactical Airlift Wing, the 463rd Airlift Wing, the 7th Wing,
23 and, most recently, the 317th Airlift Group; more than 17,000
24 aircrew and maintenance personnel have kept the planes flying over

1 the years, and between December 2003 and March 2013, Dyess C-130s
2 were deployed for 3,378 consecutive days in support of operations
3 in Afghanistan and Iraq, flying more than 95,000 hours and 57,000
4 sorties; and

5 WHEREAS, Dyess personnel and aircraft have also provided
6 invaluable support to many humanitarian missions, supplying famine
7 relief in Mali, delivering cholera vaccine in the Sudan, airlifting
8 refugees to safety in Central America and the Middle East,
9 providing earthquake assistance to Mexico City, Pakistan, and
10 Haiti, fighting forest fires in the Rockies, and responding to
11 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

12 WHEREAS, Since April 2010, the fleet at Dyess has been
13 replaced with the latest model, the C-130J Super Hercules, and the
14 delivery of the 28th and final aircraft represents the moment of
15 "Fleet Complete," not only for the military and civilian personnel
16 at Dyess, but also for the leaders and citizens of Abilene, who have
17 steadfastly supported the base's airmen and airwomen and their
18 families over the years; and

19 WHEREAS, For 52 years, Dyess Air Force Base and its C-130s
20 have played a key role in the nation's defense and provided aid and
21 comfort to countless people in need, and the receipt of the base's
22 full complement represents a fitting opportunity to celebrate this
23 legendary aircraft and the men and women who keep it flying; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas,
26 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the delivery of the final
27 C-130J Super Hercules to Dyess Air Force Base and extend to the

1 base's personnel and supporters sincere best wishes for the future;
2 and, be it further

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