SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

In Memory of Charles Winters Wilson

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Charles "Hong Kong" Winters Wilson, who died January 11, 2013, at the age of 91; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was a global force in the fields of military and commercial aviation; he was born to fly, it seems, and his contributions while navigating the wild blue yonder were many; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was born June 9, 1921, in Dublin, Texas; early in his life, he knew he wanted to be a pilot, and the fastest route to flight school was through the Royal Canadian Air Force, which he joined at age 19; and

WHEREAS, The attack on Pearl Harbor prompted him to enlist in the United States Army Air Corps; he became a command pilot of the B-17 Flying Fortress and flew 28 combat missions with the legendary 100th Bomb Group, 350th Squadron; after combat, he participated in Operation Chowhound, an aerial food relief effort over Holland, and he was among the pilots who retrieved French prisoners of war from Austria and returned them to Paris; and

WHEREAS, After World War II, Mr. Wilson joined Philippine Airlines in Manila; while based in the island capital, he met and married Consuelo Taylor, a flight attendant who would become his lifelong love; the couple enjoyed 65 years of marriage and raised four children; and

WHEREAS, His illustrious commercial career included his piloting of the first eastbound DC6 revenue flight across the

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Pacific Ocean and a three-year stint with Ethiopia Airlines; later, he returned stateside and flew for Transco Company in Houston; during his career above the clouds, Hong Kong Wilson flew several noteworthy aircraft, including the Tiger Moth and the Falcon Jet; and

WHEREAS, A man of courage, strength, and compassion, he gave generously to others, and he leaves behind memories that will be cherished forever by his family and countless friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Charles Winters Wilson; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of high esteem from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Charles Wilson.

Fraser, Taylor

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 23, 2013, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate