

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, April 18, 2017, marks the 75th anniversary of the
2 famous Doolittle Raid during World War II, and this occasion
3 provides a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the heroism of
4 retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole, the last
5 surviving member of that mission; and

6 WHEREAS, Only four months after the devastating attack on
7 Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the U.S. Army Air Forces staged a
8 daring raid on Japan; led by Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle, 16
9 B-25B Mitchell bombers took off from the aircraft carrier USS
10 *Hornet* to bomb six Japanese cities; and

11 WHEREAS, Afterward, one of the bombers landed in Russia,
12 while the other 15 either ditched in the sea or crashed in China; of
13 the 80 men who took part in the mission, three died during the raid,
14 eight were taken prisoner, and the rest eventually returned to
15 rejoin the war effort; while the raid had no significant military
16 effect, it boosted the morale of the American public and showed the
17 Japanese that they could not defend their home islands from attack;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Dick Cole was born on September 7, 1915, in Dayton,
20 Ohio; he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940 and was commissioned
21 as a second lieutenant in July 1941; the following spring, he
22 volunteered for an unspecified "dangerous mission" after seeing a
23 notice on a bulletin board, and it was only two days after he and the
24 other members of the mission had set sail from California that they

1 learned their objective was Japan; during the raid itself,
2 Lieutenant Cole served as Colonel Doolittle's copilot in the lead
3 aircraft; after dropping their payload on Tokyo, the two men and
4 their crew flew southwestward until they ran out of fuel and then
5 bailed out over China, where Lieutenant Cole spent the first night
6 hanging by his parachute from a pine tree; and

7 WHEREAS, Dick Cole remained in the China-Burma-India theater
8 until June 1943 and served there again from October 1943 to June
9 1944; in the years following the war, he achieved a notable career
10 in the U.S. Air Force; his military commendations include the
11 Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak-leaf clusters, the Bronze
12 Star, the Air Medal with one oak-leaf cluster, the Air Force
13 Commendation Medal, and the Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Corps
14 Medal, class A, 1st grade; and

15 WHEREAS, Now living in Comfort, Texas, Colonel Cole embodies
16 the selfless, courageous spirit of the 80 brave comrades who, in
17 carrying out a perilous and audacious assignment, lifted the
18 spirits of a nation during one of its darkest hours and helped
19 inspire its armed forces to their eventual victory over the Axis
20 Powers; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
22 Legislature hereby commend Lieutenant Colonel Richard Cole for his
23 heroic service during the Doolittle Raid and extend to him sincere
24 best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

H.R. No. 1469

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Lieutenant Colonel Cole as an expression of high
3 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Cyrier

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1469 was adopted by the House on April 18, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House