

By: Cyrier

H.R. No. 1469

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

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