86R28083 JGH-D

By:  Cyrier H.R. No. 1375

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Commemorative Air Force has restored *That's All, Brother*, a World War II troop transport plane that was used during the D-Day invasion of Europe, and this achievement truly merits special recognition; and

WHEREAS, The CAF was established in 1957 when a group of former military pilots in the Rio Grande Valley decided to purchase and preserve an example of every aircraft that flew during World War II, starting with a P-51 Mustang fighter plane; the organization was chartered in 1961, and today, its 13,000 members across the nation and around the world work to maintain, display, and fly 175 vintage aircraft from World War II and other conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Built in March 1944, *That's All, Brother* is a C-47 troop transport plane that played a central role in the main airborne invasion of France on D-Day; piloted by Lieutenant Colonel John Donalson, the plane led more than 800 C-47s that transported over 13,000 paratroopers into Normandy, enabling them to parachute behind enemy lines; the aircraft later took part in Operations Market Garden, Repulse, and Varsity; and

WHEREAS, After the war, the plane was placed on the civilian market and passed through several hands; its historical significance had almost been forgotten, but it was rediscovered by two Air Force historians in 2007 in a scrapyard in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and purchased by the CAF; since then, with the help of a grant from a Texas nonprofit and donations from thousands of individuals, the CAF's Central Texas Wing in San Marcos has restored the C-47 to its 1944 configuration; and

WHEREAS, This summer, the CAF will fly *That's All, Brother* and a fleet of other troop transports across the Atlantic to Normandy to take part in the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2019; after that, the plane will be flown to Germany to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift before returning home to Texas; and

WHEREAS, *That's All, Brother* is a living testament to the courage and sacrifice of the soldiers and airmen who took part in the greatest invasion in military history, and the Commemorative Air Force has rendered outstanding service to their memory through its caring restoration of this legendary aircraft; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor the Commemorative Air Force for its restoration of *That's All, Brother* and extend to all those participating in the Normandy commemoration sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable event; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the Commemorative Air Force as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.