

By: Cyrier

H.R. No. 1375

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, After the war, the plane was placed on the civilian
20 market and passed through several hands; its historical
21 significance had almost been forgotten, but it was rediscovered by
22 two Air Force historians in 2007 in a scrapyard in Oshkosh,
23 Wisconsin, and purchased by the CAF; since then, with the help of a
24 grant from a Texas nonprofit and donations from thousands of

1 individuals, the CAF's Central Texas Wing in San Marcos has
2 restored the C-47 to its 1944 configuration; and

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

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

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

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