

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 2798

Sponsors: Representatives Dollar, Pate, England (Primary Sponsors); Allred, Church, Current, Hurley, Moore, Spear, Stam, Tarleton, and Walend.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

June 23, 2008

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE CREW OF THE
2 B-24J LIBERATOR WHO WAS LOST DURING WORLD WAR II, AND
3 EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO CLAYTON KUHLES FOR HIS DISCOVERY
4 OF THE PLANE, NICKNAMED "HOT AS HELL," IN 2006.

5 Whereas, in April of 1942, Allied Forces began flying missions from India
6 over the Himalayan Mountains to supply Chinese forces fighting the Japanese; and

7 Whereas, these resupply missions over "The Hump" were among the most
8 dangerous of World War II resulting in the loss of hundreds of aircraft and crew of
9 which more than 500 aircraft and 1,200 crew members still remain missing today; and

10 Whereas, on January 25, 1944, the crew of the B-24J Liberator, nicknamed
11 "Hot as Hell," was lost on a return flight from Kunming, China, to Chabua, India; and

12 Whereas, on November 20, 1944, the eight crew members were declared
13 dead, including Pilot, 1st Lt. William A. Swanson; Co-Pilot, Flight Officer Sheldon L.
14 Chambers; Navigator, 1st Lt. Irwin Zaetz; Bombardier, 1st Lt. Robert E. Oxford;
15 Engineer, Staff Sgt. Charles D. Ginn; Radio Op., Staff Sgt. Harry B. Queen; Gunner,
16 Sgt. James A. Hinson; and Gunner, Sgt. Alfred H. Gerrans; and

17 Whereas, Sergeant James A. Hinson was a native of Greensboro, North
18 Carolina and Sergeant Alfred H. Gerrans was a native of Kinston, North Carolina; and

19 Whereas, Flight Officer Sheldon Chambers was the uncle of Shirley Black of
20 Mocksville, North Carolina, and 1st Lt. Irwin Zaetz was the uncle of Gary Zaetz of
21 Cary, North Carolina, who has been instrumental in locating the surviving family
22 members of the crew; and

23 Whereas, on December 7, 2006, Clayton Kuhles of Prescott, Arizona,
24 discovered the crash site and wreckage of "Hot as Hell" in a remote area of India; and

25 Whereas, Clayton Kuhles has dedicated his personal time and resources to
26 locate American and Allied aircraft lost in the India-Burma-China theater of war; and

27 Whereas, Clayton Kuhles has since assisted surviving family members of the
28 crew to successfully petition for the recovery of the crew's remains by the United States
29 Air Force in cooperation with the government of India; and

1 Whereas, this mission to be conducted in 2008 will, after 64 years, secure the
2 remains of eight brave and honored Americans for interment in their native soil; Now,
3 therefore,

4 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

5 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly wishes to honor the memory of the
6 crew of the B-24 Liberator, "Hot as Hell," who gave the full measure of their lives while
7 rendering service to our country during World War II, and pays tribute to all members
8 of the Armed Forces still missing in action.

9 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly wishes to acknowledge with gratitude
10 the work of Clayton Kuhles whose efforts and dedication to the memory of American
11 service members lost in the India-Burma-China theater of war led to the discovery of
12 these and other missing airmen.

13 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
14 resolution to Mr. Kuhles and to the surviving families of the crew members of the "Hot
15 as Hell."

16 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.