

1 HR311
2 139599-1
3 By Representative Rich
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 22-MAR-12

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7
8 COMMENDING RYAN ERSKINE FOR EARNING THE GENERAL CARL
9 A. SPAATZ AWARD.

10
11 WHEREAS, it is a great pleasure to commend Ryan
12 Erskine for his outstanding achievement in earning the General
13 Carl A. Spaatz Award, the Civil Air Patrol's highest cadet
14 honor; and

15 WHEREAS, the son of Sonya Erskine of Boaz, he is a
16 Civil Air Patrol Cadet in the Gadsden Squadron and plans to
17 attend Auburn University in the fall of 2012 on an Air Force
18 ROTC Scholarship, majoring in Aerospace Engineering; he was
19 selected as an Elite Scholar and received a Spirit of Auburn
20 Presidential Scholarship as well as a Dean of Engineering
21 Scholarship from the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering; and

22 WHEREAS, the Spaatz Award is presented to cadets who
23 have demonstrated excellence in leadership, character,
24 fitness, and aerospace education; cadets qualify by
25 progressing through 16 achievements in the CAP Cadet Program;
26 along the way they develop self-discipline, a strong sense of
27 personal responsibility, the ability to lead and persuade, and

1 the foundation necessary for pursuing a career in aviation,
2 space, or technology; and

3 WHEREAS, the final step is a rigorous four-part exam
4 consisting of a challenging physical fitness test, an essay
5 exam testing their moral reasoning, and two comprehensive
6 written exams, one on leadership and another on aerospace
7 education; because the standards are so high, only two cadets
8 in 1,000 achieve the distinction of earning the Spaatz Award;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Spaatz Award is named in honor of Carl
11 "Tooey" Spaatz, the first Chief of Staff of the United States
12 Air Force, who commanded the World War II Allied air campaign
13 against the Nazis; in the Pacific Theater, the bombing of
14 Hiroshima and Nagasaki took place under his command; after
15 retiring from the Air Force, General Spaatz served as the
16 first chairman of the Civil Air Patrol National Board; and

17 WHEREAS, the Civil Air Patrol, the official
18 auxiliary of the United States Air Force, is a nonprofit
19 organization with some 60,000 members nationwide and performs
20 95 percent of inland search and rescue missions as tasked by
21 the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center; its volunteers also
22 perform homeland security, disaster relief, and counterdrug
23 missions; and

24 WHEREAS, Cadet Colonel Erskine's exceptional
25 achievements as recognized by this worthy organization reflect
26 honor upon all Alabamians and make him a role model for all
27 young people; now therefore,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
2 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That highest commendations are
3 extended to Ryan Erskine for earning the prestigious General
4 Carl A. Spaatz Award and, by copy of this resolution, the
5 people of the State of Alabama convey heartiest
6 congratulations along with best wishes in future endeavors.