

Senate Resolution 510

By: Senators Thompson of the 14th, Heath of the 31st, Hufstetler of the 52nd, Rhett of the 33rd and Dugan of the 30th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the heroic and valiant actions as seen by the Phoenix Air
2 employees involved with the extraction of U.S. State Department employees from the hostile
3 environment in Caracas, Venezuela; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, this story begins to unfold two weeks prior to the extraction date as tensions
5 continued to grow across Venezuela while the fight for the recognition of the legitimate
6 Venezuelan Presidency continued; and

7 WHEREAS, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said "the United States government, at all
8 levels, remains firm in its resolve and support for the people of Venezuela and Interim
9 President Juan Guaido"; and

10 WHEREAS, as this struggle continued, the U.S. Embassy personnel in Caracas had
11 previously been evacuated, leaving the 24 American diplomats and security forces in place,
12 hunkered down to maintain a U.S. Government presence inside the Embassy; and

13 WHEREAS, the brave individuals of Phoenix Air were activated under their State
14 Department contract and dispatched a Gulfstream G-III to the lower Caribbean, off the
15 Venezuelan coast, to try and take some supplies to the beleaguered Americans who were
16 holding out in the Embassy; and

17 WHEREAS, Secretary Pompeo made the decision to extract the remaining 24 U.S.
18 diplomats, and to complete this heroic mission, the crew of Phoenix Air used an L-100
19 aircraft and ventured out towards Venezuela knowing they would only have one shot; and

20 WHEREAS, the flight crew flew nonstop to Caracas, picked up the 24 Americans, then flew
21 to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to refuel. At the same time, a Phoenix Air Learjet picked up five
22 fresh flight crewmembers at the L-100's base and flew them to San Juan to meet the arriving
23 L-100; and

24 WHEREAS, after the L-100 refueled, it departed on a direct flight to Dulles Airport in
25 Washington, D.C., and the mission was complete as the 24 Americans and brave crew
26 members landed safely back in the United States.

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the brave and heroic
28 actions taken by those of Phoenix Air be recognized and commended for their strength,
29 character, and determination to preserve and protect the lives of the Americans.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
31 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Phoenix Air.