

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON AND SENATOR PEACOCK

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to prevent the retirement of A-10 aircraft assigned to the 917th Fighter Group, based at Barksdale Air Force Base.

WHEREAS, established in 1932, the Barksdale Air Force Base (AFB), a United States Air Force Base located approximately 4.72 miles east-southeast of Bossier City, Louisiana, is named for World War I aviator and test pilot 2nd Lieutenant Eugene Hoy Barksdale (1896–1926); and

WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base has proudly served Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas for more than sixty-seven years and is home to the 2d Bomb Wing, 2d Mission Support Group, 2d Operations Group, 2d Maintenance Group, the 2d Medical Group, 8th Air Force Museum, and the Air Force Reserve's 917th Wing; and

WHEREAS, in December 1999, the 917th Wing received the Air Force outstanding Unit Award, for winning the Chief of Staff Team Excellence Award and Secretary of Defense Award for Self-Inspection Tracking System. The award noted the unit's sponsorship of the Starbase program, which creates interest for local children in math, science, and technology by using an aviation theme; and

WHEREAS, Barksdale Air Force Base has grown into a major source of revenue and employment for the region by providing jobs for nearly ten thousand military and civilian employees and in 2006, under Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), the 917th Wing gained eight A-10 aircraft and a number of full-time and part-time employment positions; and

WHEREAS, as part of a wide-ranging plan to reduce its total aircraft inventory, the Obama administration intends to propose in the 2013 budget request, the elimination of

twenty-four A-10 aircraft that comprise the Air Force Reserve's 917th Fighter Group at Barksdale Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, the Air Force plans to rebalance its overall ratio of regular, reserve, and Air National Guard forces at about sixty installations in thirty-three states and retire two hundred twenty-seven aircraft to support a new defense strategy known as the "Air Force Strategy and Structure Overview"; and

WHEREAS, for nearly eighty years the 917th Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base and the Shreveport-Bossier community have enjoyed a strong partnership, which provides jobs to the community and programs for the local children, and the elimination of the A-10 aircraft will have an adverse effect on not only the economy but the community as well.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize congress to take such actions as are necessary to oppose the elimination of A-10 aircraft assigned to the 917th Fighter Group, based at Barksdale Air Force Base.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE