

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1044

By: Wright

6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution expressing deep appreciation;
9 designating March 22, 2016, as General Stafford Day
10 in Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

11
12 WHEREAS, Thomas P. Stafford's mother came to Oklahoma in a
13 covered wagon, and yet lived to see her only child fly to the Moon;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, he was born in Weatherford in 1930 and graduated from
16 Weatherford High School in 1948; and

17 WHEREAS, General Stafford graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy
18 in Annapolis with honors and then chose to become a U.S. Air Force
19 pilot; and

20 WHEREAS, he was selected among the second group of NASA
21 astronauts in 1962 to participate in Projects Gemini and Apollo; and

22 WHEREAS, General Stafford flew four historic space missions
23 (Gemini 6, Gemini 9, Apollo 10 and Apollo-Soyuz), three of them as
24 the mission Commander; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1969, he commanded the Apollo 10 mission to the
2 Moon, and performed the last full dress rehearsal for a lunar
3 landing; and

4 WHEREAS, he served as Chief of all astronauts from 1969 to 1971,
5 and was the first astronaut to become a General, eventually becoming
6 a three-star Lieutenant General; and

7 WHEREAS, General Stafford was nominated for the Nobel Peace
8 Prize for his efforts as Commander of the Apollo-Soyuz mission - the
9 first joint international space flight between astronaut crews from
10 the Soviet Union and the U.S. - an event that proved to be so
11 significant that it led to the beginning of the end of the Cold War;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, he was presented the Congressional Space Medal of Honor
14 by President George Bush - the country's highest aerospace honor;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, after leaving NASA in 1975, General Stafford was named
17 Commander of the Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base,
18 Commander of the top-secret "Area 51" test facility, later led the
19 development of stealth technology, and is considered the "father" of
20 the F-117 and B-2 stealth aircraft; and

21 WHEREAS, at the age of 85, he is still considered a greatly
22 trusted consultant to numerous aerospace companies, NASA, and the
23 Russian space program.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives expresses deep
4 appreciation to General Thomas Stafford for the many contributions
5 he has made to the United States and to the field of aviation.

6 THAT March 22, 2016, is hereby proclaimed as General Stafford
7 Day in Oklahoma.

8 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to General
9 Stafford.

10

11 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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