

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 404

By Ragan

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the 105<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron upon the occasion of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Volunteer State have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, the members of the 105<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, operating from Berry Field in Nashville, have remained ever vigilant and prepared for duty, proving time and again their ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the roots of the 105<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron reach back to World War I, when the Aero Squadron of the American Expeditionary Force was formed at Kelly Field, Texas, in 1917; and

WHEREAS, after the war, in 1919, veterans of the 105<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron residing in the Nashville area gathered for the purpose of organizing an air element of the Tennessee National Guard; and

WHEREAS, the unit received federal recognition on December 4, 1921, and was assigned to the U.S. Army's 30<sup>th</sup> "Old Hickory" Division; the squadron's insignia still includes a figure of Andrew Jackson, "Old Hickory," on horseback; and

WHEREAS, with the drums of war approaching, the 105<sup>th</sup> was called to active duty in 1940 and became a ready source of trained personnel and seasoned pilots when our nation entered World War II; and

WHEREAS, during the war, members of the 105<sup>th</sup> flew a variety of missions around the globe, including observation, submarine patrol, reconnaissance, and bombardment, switching assignments and aircraft as necessary. From 1943 to 1945, the 105<sup>th</sup> flew over 100 combat missions, utilizing the B-25G "Mitchell" bomber against Japanese targets in the Pacific Theatre; and

WHEREAS, since the 1950s, the unit has been known by several designations and has flown many types of aircraft, but it is perhaps best and most prominently known for its tenure as part of the 118<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing when it flew the C-130H; and

WHEREAS, under its assigned transport mission, the unit flew more than 200,000 hours and millions of miles in international and stateside missions in direct support of United States military missions; the 105<sup>th</sup> supported the Berlin and Cuban missile crises, national and state civil disturbances, the Vietnam War, and Operations DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, VOLANT OAK, NOBLE EAGLE, ENDURING FREEDOM, AND IRAQI FREEDOM, to name only a few of the better-known operations; and

WHEREAS, in support of those military operations and assignments, the members of the 105<sup>th</sup> have seen duty at locations around the globe, including Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, in addition to serving as an Air Education and Training Command to teach C-130 pilots and crew from more than seven countries; and

WHEREAS, called on to support humanitarian efforts at home and abroad, the 105<sup>th</sup> rendered sterling support in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi to provide aid in the wake of hurricanes Rita and Katrina, as well as in Haiti as part of Operation UNIFIED RESPONSE after the devastating earthquake there in 2011; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the mission of the 105<sup>th</sup> was reassigned to Air Combat Command and was formally renamed the 105<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron as the last C-130 left Berry Field on September 26, 2012, to be replaced by the unit's new aircraft, the MQ-9 Reaper; and

WHEREAS, the members of the "Old Hickory Squadron" have proudly upheld the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society, and for 100 years, their courageous service has stood as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly honor the brave and noble men and women of the 105<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron as they have made untold and innumerable personal sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today and will continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the members of the 105<sup>th</sup> Attack Squadron, Tennessee Air National Guard, on the occasion of the unit's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and express our deepest gratitude for the sacrifices these valiant men and women have so selflessly made to secure the blessings of liberty for the people of this great nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.