

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7094

By Akbari

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Ryan J. Sells of the United States Air Force, recently appointed commander of the 15th Test and Evaluation Squadron.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as professionals and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Lieutenant Colonel Ryan J. Sells, United States Air Force, who will assume command of the Air Force's 15th Test and Evaluation Squadron in August 2023 during a Change of Command ceremony at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Sells is a graduate of Bolton High School and Vanderbilt University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering; he received his commission through the ROTC program at Tennessee State University, where he was a Distinguished Graduate; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his officer commission in May 2006, he graduated from Squadron Officer School in 2012 and from Air Command and Staff College in 2019, both located at Maxwell Airforce Base in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, his assignments include Joint Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training, Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida; F-15E WSO, 334th Fighter Squadron, Seymour Johnson Airforce Base, North Carolina; F-15E WSO Flight Commander, 389th Fighter Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho; EA-18G Instructor EWO Flight Commander, 390th Electronic Combat Squadron, Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Washington; Inspector

General, Assistant Director of Operations and Test WSO; and Director of Operations, 15th Test and Evaluation Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Sells has completed multiple deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Pacific Theater Security Packages; he has amassed more than 1,900 flight hours and 525 combat hours in F-15E, EA-18G, F-16D, and RQ-170 aircraft and holds the rating of Master Combat Systems Officer; and

WHEREAS, in his most recent assignment as Director of Operations, he has overseen the operational test planning and execution of a \$7.4 billion acquisition program in coordination with a 159-member combined test force and has provided Air Combat Command and OSD with independent evaluations on system effectiveness and suitability to provide future warfighting capabilities; and

WHEREAS, often duly recognized for his superior service and leadership, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Sells has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air and Space Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Navy Achievement Medal with gold star, and the Presidential Unit Citation; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many worthy endeavors, he has enjoyed the love and support of his father, Randy Sells; his mother, Mary Lou Sells; his brothers, Jason (Angela) Sells and Brad (Lindsey) Sells; his five nieces and nephews; and his beloved companion, Jill Hammack; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Sells epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Sells is an eminent leader in the U.S. Air Force, and we find it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud him on this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Ryan J. Sells as he assumes command of the U.S. Air Force's 15th Test and Evaluation Squadron, commend his ongoing commitment to the highest tenets of military service, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors.

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.