

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

BY REPRESENTATIVE OWEN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the around-the-world flight, known as Global Power 94-7.

WHEREAS, Global Power 94-7 was a record-setting around-the-globe flight conducted by two B-52H Boeing Stratofortress bombers in 1994; the flight served to demonstrate American exceptionalism, persistent airpower, and power projection; and

WHEREAS, the United States Air Force, and its predecessor, the Army Air Corps, have been integral components and elements of the national defense of the United States of America since manned flight was pioneered and incorporated into the American warfighting ethos in the early 1900s; and

WHEREAS, aviation pioneers such Orville and Wilbur Wright, Generals Billy Mitchell, Jimmy Doolittle, Curtis LeMay, Francis Gabreski, Chuck Yeager, Robin Olds, Chappie James, and many others undertook daring actions to develop, harness, and then operationalize the unbounded potential of manned flight and laid the critical groundwork to establish the U.S. Air Force as the preeminent air arm in the history of mankind; and

WHEREAS, the American bomber force led the way in World War II, crippling German and Japanese war machines and bringing the war to an end, during the waning days of the Vietnam War, forcing the communists to the negotiating table, and in Operation Desert Storm decimating the entrenched army of the forces that had invaded the Kingdom of Kuwait and bringing to a rapid resolution the conflict that had been projected to take months or even years; and

WHEREAS, the bomber fleet of the United States Air Force is one of three critical components of the American nuclear deterrence TRIAD; and

WHEREAS, for over forty years the bombers of the U.S. Air Force and Strategic Air Command (SAC) stood at-the-ready and on alert to respond to strategic threats and attacks on the United States; these valiant warriors and the maintainers and support teams who ensured a constant readiness to defend the United States kept the Soviet Union at bay and

were a critical component in hastening the collapse of what President Ronald Reagan declared as an "evil empire"; and

WHEREAS, in 1994, in an effort to demonstrate the critical concept of Global Reach, Global Power, two B-52Hs, manned by 16 crew members, transited the globe in 47.2 hours; these highly skilled airmen navigated on an easterly course from Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana directly to the Udari Bombing Range in the Kingdom of Kuwait, within three seconds of the anticipated time of target and delivered 27,000 pounds of high explosives; and

WHEREAS, upon delivery of the ordnance, the jets continued eastward, transiting ocean after ocean, and arriving back at their home station of Barksdale Air Force in Bossier City, Louisiana, demonstrating to all friends and enemies around the world that at any moment in time, America's Airmen could respond to the direction of the National Command Authority and step into the breach to defend friends and allies and eradicate the behavior of tyrants; and

WHEREAS, the brilliant airmanship of the officers of the 2nd Bombardment Wing (Heavy), and the maintainers, security personnel, tankers, mission planners, and others demonstrated to the world what teamwork looks like and underscored their capacity, accuracy, precision, and commitment to excellence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the around-the-world flight known as Global Power 94-7; does hereby pay sincere tribute to all the warrior-airmen who set a record in 1994 and who both continued the tradition of aerial dominance of the United States Air Force and paved the way for a future of American excellence in aviation for decades to come; and does hereby recognize all of the gallant airmen who transited the earth in 1994, honorary citizens of our great state, wish them well, and thank them for their efforts to defend liberty and stand guard of our great republic.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE