

A RESOLUTION honoring Colonel Walker Russell "Russ" Reynolds upon the occasion of his enshrinement into the Aviation Museum of Kentucky's Hall of Fame on November 7, 2015.

WHEREAS, Colonel Russ Reynolds is a son of this Commonwealth, born in Jackson County on August 7, 1918, to Walker R. and Mary M. Walker Reynolds; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Russ Reynolds attended Tyner High School and graduated with an agriculture degree from the University of Kentucky in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Russ Reynolds taught farming practices in eastern Kentucky and worked, as his father had before him, as an extension agent for UK's Cooperative Extension Service before resigning to serve his country at the onset of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Russ Reynolds began his military career with the United States Army's Air Corps, attending the service's primary flying school in Vernon, Texas. Graduating in May 1943, and earning the gold bar as a second lieutenant, he was transferred to Hollandia, New Guinea, where he would join the 22nd Bomb Group, otherwise known as the "Red Raiders"; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Russ Reynolds would fly missions against the Japanese in Manila and the Island of Luzon in the Philippines. In August 1945, he was to fly a perilous bombing mission of a naval base south of Tokyo. However, storms forced the cancellation of the mission, and on that very day he learned that the atomic bomb had been dropped on Hiroshima; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Colonel Russ Reynolds applied for a permanent military commission and was assigned to Byrd Field in Richmond, Virginia, where he would perform pilot check rides and pilot various types of aircraft; and

WHEREAS, during the Korean War, Colonel Russ Reynolds was stationed in Hawaii, where he flew C-54's from the United States, the Philippines, Guam, and Japan. In 1952, he became assistant professor of air science and tactics at the University of Hawaii's Air Force ROTC. In 1955, he left Hawaii with his wife, Laurestine, and young

son and returned to Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, where he flew the C-124 Globemaster as part of a classified operation transporting nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Colonel Russ Reynolds was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and named Commander of the 7th Logistics Support Squadron, which was to fly across the world recycling nuclear weapons from storage sites; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Colonel Russ Reynolds was named Commander of the 57th Rescue Squadron, becoming the first squadron commander to become pilot-qualified in the new Lockheed HC-130, an aircraft designed for rescue and recovery. He would go on to receive the Joint Services Commendation Medal from Admiral Thomas H. Moore in recognition of his work in search and rescue in the Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Russ Reynolds continued to work in rescue and recovery, first at Rescue and Recovery Headquarters in Orlando, Florida, as Inspector General, and then as Deputy Commander for Operations at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. During his time at Scott, he visited the rescue units who had returned from the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Colonel Russ Reynolds retired from active duty, beginning work as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers and the Consulting Engineers Council of Kentucky, positions he held for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2015, Colonel Walker Russell "Russ" Reynolds was enshrined in the Aviation Museum of Kentucky's Hall of Fame, and this honorable body hereby commends him for his many accomplishments in the field of aviation; for his bravery and service to this great nation; and for his years of selfless sacrifice flying rescue and recovery missions;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

➔Section 1. The Senate hereby congratulates Colonel Walker Russell "Russ" Reynolds upon his enshrinement into the Aviation Museum of Kentucky's Hall of Fame

and for his exemplary work in the field of rescue and recovery as a member of the United States military.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Colonel Walker Russell "Russ" Reynolds.

➔Section 3. The Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Alice Forgy Kerr for delivery.