

By: Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ILLUSTRIOUS MILITARY CAREER OF
2 MAJOR HOWARD RICHARDSON OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, Mississippi's contribution to the World War II
4 National Monument in Washington, D.C., has been made to recognize
5 the sacrifices and valor of servicemen such as Howard Richardson
6 of Jackson, Mississippi, who was a decorated veteran serving
7 overseas in the European theatre of war; and

8 WHEREAS, Howard Richardson was born in Louisville,
9 Mississippi, the first of twins; and

10 WHEREAS, Richardson always wanted to fly; he began in the
11 civilian pilot training program in Starkville in 1941, then
12 enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps on May 11, 1942; he
13 began flight training at Stamford, Texas; next to Sebring,
14 Florida, to learn to pilot a B-17 "Flying Fortress," then to Salt
15 Lake City to form a 10-man crew for a B-47; following team
16 training, Richardson and his new team went to Wichita, Kansas, to
17 take delivery of a brand new Flying Fortress, fly it across the
18 North Atlantic to Ireland, thence to Cambridge, England, to join
19 the 385th Bombing Group of the Eighth Air Force; and

20 WHEREAS, his first combat bombing mission was flown on May
21 12, 1944, to attack Zwickau, and for many months of bombing German
22 city targets, it was a hard and dangerous life; B-17 pilots were
23 expected to fly 25 missions over Germany which would complete "a
24 combat tour"; but the 25-mission tour was increased by General
25 Jimmy Doolittle to 30 missions, and later to 35 missions by
26 General Eisenhower; and

27 WHEREAS, he flew three missions over Berlin, three missions
28 over Munich, three missions to Merseberg in three days, and other
29 missions to Leipzig, Hamm, Hanover, Wesserburg, Regensburg and
30 Hamburg; Richardson completed his 35th combat mission on August 11
31 in less than 90 days; and it was during this period when Howard's
32 plane receive its famous name "Mississippi Miss," because the
33 plane was hit many times by enemy anti-aircraft fire and
34 Messersmitt fighter aircraft fire, but was never shot down.
35 (After World War II ended, the plane was flown across the Atlantic
36 and placed in storage in Tuscon, never to fly again. "Mississippi
37 Miss" became spare parts); and

38 WHEREAS, after the surrender in April 1945, Richardson became
39 a staff officer in the 4th Bombing Wing at Burg St. Edmunds,
40 England, but soon shifted to C-54 transport aircraft flying
41 personnel and cargo to Paris, then United States wounded from
42 Paris to the United States; and

43 WHEREAS, in the post World War II period, Richardson found
44 time to get his college degree at Mississippi State and was
45 offered and accepted a regular commission in the Army Air Corps;
46 in 1947, he became involved in the Berlin airlift; he was now a
47 Major in the United States Air Force and his job was to seek and
48 approve other pilots for the Berlin airlift, but the next
49 assignment he sought was to fly the USAF "Plum" aircraft, the new,
50 six-engine jet bomber of SAC, the B-47; many of the USAF
51 "practice" B-47 flights were flown from Homestead Air Force Base
52 in Florida on pre-planned nuclear weapon delivery training
53 missions across the North Pole to Russian targets, and it was on
54 one such simulated flight in a B-47 with a real 8,600 pound Mark
55 15 nuclear weapon loaded aboard which gave Richardson a problem,
56 necessitating the jettisoning of the weapon in order to save his
57 crew; and

58 WHEREAS, for his 31 years of active service, Howard
59 Richardson's awards were the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished

60 Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Medal with four Oak
61 Leaf Clusters, the Air Force Commendation Ribbon, and the
62 Presidential Unit Citation; and

63 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
64 military career of this true Mississippi hero:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the illustrious active
67 military career of Major Howard Richardson of Jackson,
68 Mississippi, and wish him continued success in his future
69 endeavors.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
71 presented to Howard Richardson and his family, and be made
72 available to the Capitol Press Corps.