

By: Senator(s) Gollott

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING COLONEL RAY T. "TOM" GARZA FOR HIS
2 DEDICATED AND EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED
3 STATES AND THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Colonel Ray T. "Tom" Garza, Vice Commander of the
5 81st Training Wing, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, is being
6 transferred to another assignment; and

7 WHEREAS, the 81st Training Wing provides technical training
8 for officers, airmen and civilians of the U.S. Air Force, Air
9 National Guard and other agencies of the Department of Defense in
10 numerous electronic, avionics, computer, personnel and information
11 career fields; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Ray T. "Tom" Garza enlisted in the United
13 States Air Force in October 1972; and

14 WHEREAS, he was commissioned as a distinguished military
15 graduate of the Officer Training School in October 1976; and

16 WHEREAS, he was an honor graduate; Weapons Controller ECCM
17 Operations Course in 1977; honor graduate, Air Weapons Director
18 Staff Officer Course in 1985; an F-15 Blue Force Controller,
19 AMRAAM Operational Utility Evaluation in 1984; and NORAD Cheyenne
20 Mountain Assistant DCS Operations Junior Officer of the Year in
21 1984; and

22 WHEREAS, Colonel Ray T. "Tom" Garza served in the Directorate
23 of Operations, United States Central Command, including nine
24 months in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, during Operation DESERT
25 SHIELD/DESERT STORM; and

26 WHEREAS, Colonel Ray T. "Tom" Garza is a Master Air Battle
27 Manager who has flown 23 combat support sorties as AWACS Mission



28 Crew Commander in Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and PROVIDE COMFORT,
29 enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq; and

30 WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary career, Colonel Garza's
31 talents and contributions have been recognized with many awards
32 and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star
33 Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf
34 cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf
35 clusters, the Aerial Achievement Medal, the Air Force Commendation
36 Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Combat Readiness Medal with
37 one oak leaf cluster, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three
38 service stars, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi) and the Kuwait
39 Liberation Medal (Kuwait); and

40 WHEREAS, Colonel Garza was rewarded with promotions
41 throughout his military career, beginning with his promotion to
42 Second Lieutenant on October 29, 1976; First Lieutenant on October
43 29, 1978; Captain on October 29, 1980; Major on March 1, 1987;
44 Lieutenant Colonel on April 1, 1992; and Colonel on July 1, 1998;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, under Colonel Garza's leadership over 16,000
47 personnel from four military branches trained over 60,000 students
48 from the United States and abroad in Air Traffic Control, Weather
49 Forecasting, Medicine, Computer Networking, Electronics, Avionics,
50 Administration, Military Doctrine, and many other specialties.
51 This replenished the ranks of our war-fighting and humanitarian
52 forces, many of which are deployed today in support of homeland
53 defense and the war on terrorism; and

54 WHEREAS, Colonel Garza managed over \$200 Million in
55 infrastructure improvements, including a new marina, shopping mall
56 ("base exchange"), military family homes, and the burying of
57 utilities to keep them operational during future hurricanes; and

58 WHEREAS, Colonel Garza also managed efforts, in partnership
59 with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, to
60 restore much of the environment at Keesler Air Force Base to its



61 pristine state. These efforts and the wetlands protection and
62 enhancements for aquatic life at Keesler Air Force Base have been
63 recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency and community
64 groups; and

65 WHEREAS, Colonel Garza housed and supported 800 coaches and
66 athletes for two Mississippi State Special Olympics meets and
67 stressed the volunteerism that resulted in 380,000 man-hours of
68 effort during his tenure; and

69 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Mississippi Senate to
70 recognize and commend the exemplary military service and community
71 contributions of citizens like Colonel Ray T. "Tom" Garza who
72 dedicated his life to serving the citizens of the United States
73 and the State of Mississippi:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
75 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Colonel Ray T. "Tom" Garza
76 for his dedicated and exemplary service and community
77 contributions to the citizens of the United States and the State
78 of Mississippi.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
80 presented to Colonel Ray T. "Tom" Garza.

