

By: Representatives Oliver, Foster, Gunn,
Ladner, Monsour, Rushing, Wilson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE OF CAPTAIN CHARLES T. HULL.

3 WHEREAS, after the "Battle of Britain," British Prime
4 Minister Winston Churchill opined "never in the course of human
5 history was so much owed by so many to so few"; and

6 WHEREAS, rarely in the course of human history has a man
7 given so much and expected so little in return as Captain Charles
8 T. Hull; and

9 WHEREAS, born in 1921, Captain Hull was a student at
10 Mississippi State University on December 7, 1941, the day Pearl
11 Harbor was attacked, and immediately subsequent thereafter he
12 answered his country's call to defend her while engaged in the
13 World War II, leaving Mississippi to ensure that men and women
14 around the world would live lives free from oppressive tyranny;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, stationed in Polebrook, England, Captain Hull
17 piloted B-17 bombers for the 351st Bomber Group of the Eighth Air
18 Force, flying 25 missions from June to December of 1943, and



19 enduring the unimaginable assignment of flying missions over
20 Germany without the protection of fighter escorts for him and his
21 crew; and

22 WHEREAS, on August 17, 1943, Captain Hull and his crew were
23 briefed for what would later be considered a turning point in the
24 war, their target, a ball-bearing factory in Schweinfurt, Germany,
25 integral in fueling the German war machine, an attack that would
26 require pilots like Captain Hull to fly farther into Germany than
27 ever before; and

28 WHEREAS, the mission began with 185 bombers, heavy fog and no
29 escort fighters to protect the large B-17s, as the crew would
30 encounter enemy opposition before reaching their targets, when the
31 Germans surrounded Captain Hull and the bombers on all sides,
32 "like a swarm of bees," flying at almost twice the speed of the
33 American planes, in an unrelenting, unmitigated fury; and

34 WHEREAS, Captain Hull piloted his bomber through the chaos
35 with skill unrivaled in the European Theater, avoiding major
36 damage to his plane and crew, and experiencing the Eighth Air
37 Force's loss of roughly a third of its forces; however, the United
38 States Army estimates that for every fighter plane the bombers
39 shot down, they saved between 200 and 300 troops on the ground
40 during the D-Day Invasion at Normandy; and

41 WHEREAS, over the course of Captain Hull's tour in Europe he
42 and his crew faced inconceivable risks, often times greatly
43 outnumbered, but with every hardship they returned their full



44 measure of bravery and courage, guided by Captain Hull's heroic
45 skill as a pilot which surpasses that of legends, and his
46 contribution to the United States Military and the Allied Forces
47 is incomparable, his valor supreme; and

48 WHEREAS, for his outstanding service in Europe he earned the
49 Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Service Medal and upon
50 returning from his tour in Europe, Captain Hull further served his
51 country with honor as a flight instructor for the new B-29s; and

52 WHEREAS, since completing his service, Captain Hull has
53 continued his love of travel and flying, he has been to all 50
54 states, 74 countries and crossed the Arctic Circle four times, and
55 in 1978 he completed a solo "round-the-world" flight that spanned
56 92 days and covered about 39,000 miles, during which he provided
57 supplies to missionaries around the world before returning home to
58 Mississippi; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
60 the outstanding and heroic service of individuals like Captain
61 Hull, who, through his service, brought tremendous honor to the
62 United States of America and the State of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
64 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
65 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the many outstanding
66 contributions and accomplishments of Captain Charles T. Hull and
67 express our sincere gratitude for his exemplary service and extend
68 best wishes for all of his future endeavors.



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
70 furnished to Captain Charles T. Hull and to the members of the
71 Capitol Press Corps.

