

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA -- 2001 SESSION

ENROLLED

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 831

Designating February 2, 2001, and each succeeding year as Forgotten Airmen Day in Bedford County.

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 16, 2001

Agreed to by the Senate, February 14, 2001

WHEREAS, on February 2, 1943, at the height of World War II, a B-25 bomber with a crew of five crashed into the side of Sharp Top Mountain in Bedford County; and

WHEREAS, the five airmen who gave their lives on that day have never been properly memorialized or honored for their sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, the five men on the B-25 on that fateful day were pilot and 2nd Lieutenant Paul M. Pitts from Poteau, Oklahoma; copilot and 2nd Lieutenant William C. McClure from Indianapolis, Indiana; navigator and 2nd Lieutenant Hilary S. Blackwell from Santa Monica, California; bombardier and 2nd Lieutenant George R. Beninga from Marietta, Minnesota; and flight engineer and Corporal Peter J. Biscan from Chicago, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Commonwealth acknowledge the loss the airmen's families suffered and that the Bedford County community honor the courage and sacrifice of these five young men; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate February 2, 2001, and each succeeding year as Forgotten Airmen Day in Bedford County; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the General Assembly urge the citizens of Bedford County and the Commonwealth to pause on that day to honor the courage and sacrifice of the crew of the B-25; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the families of Lieutenant Paul M. Pitts, Lieutenant William C. McClure, Lieutenant Hilary S. Blackwell, Lieutenant George R. Beninga, and Corporal Peter J. Biscan and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Commonwealth in order that she may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.

ENROLLED

HJ831ER