

2006 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 444

Offered March 3, 2006

Celebrating the life of Melvin O. Lindsay on the 50th anniversary of his death.

Patrons—Englin, Ebbin and Moran; Senator: Ticer

WHEREAS, Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay left his home in Alexandria, Virginia, at the age of 17, to enlist in the United States Air Force in October 1953, during the height of the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay was stationed in remote Alaska for more than three years serving in the 7th Weather Group and the 58th Air Weather Reconnaissance Squadron; and

WHEREAS, Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay's service to the United States Air Force included radio operation of the "Golden Heart," a large WB-50D that had been delivered to Eilsen Air Force Base in Alaska to fly over the Pacific to Russian territories; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Heart crashed on August 31, 1956, on a sandy island in the Susitna River, resulting in the loss of Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay and 10 other crewmen; and

WHEREAS, the patriotic sacrifice of Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay makes him one of the many unsung heroes of the Cold War who have never been publicly recognized for the important role they played in protecting and serving our nation during a critical time in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, the 50th anniversary of Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay's death is a reminder of the perils faced daily by the thousands of young Americans who serve in our armed forces and whose devotion to duty places them in harm's way; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby note with great sadness the 50th anniversary of the loss of a courageous and patriotic Virginian, Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the family of Airman Second Class Melvin O. Lindsay as an expression of the high regard in which his memory is held by the members of the General Assembly and the citizens of the City of Alexandria, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

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