

2013 SESSION

INTRODUCED
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13104354D

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 164

Offered February 8, 2013

Commending Alvin Queen, Jr.

Patron—Webert

WHEREAS, Alvin Queen, Jr., a Remington resident, built a replica of a North American Aviation P-51 Mustang, a World War II fighter aircraft, which was used to honor the 332nd Fighter Group; and

WHEREAS, still able to remember his first plane ride as an eight-year-old boy, Alvin Queen attended flight lessons at Manassas Regional Airport in 1959 and later flew commercial flights out of the same airport for 18 years; and

WHEREAS, combining a passion for flying and a deep interest in World War II history, Alvin Queen dreamed of adding a P-51 Mustang to his collection of three Cessna 170 personal aircraft; and

WHEREAS, with real P-51 Mustangs costing over \$2 million, Alvin Queen set about building a three-quarter-sized aluminum replica in June 1998; driving 30,000 individual rivets into the aircraft, Alvin Queen diligently worked on the project for six years; and

WHEREAS, upon completion, Alvin Queen named the aircraft "Glamorous Jean" after his wife and stenciled an image of Snoopy on the fuselage to honor the memory of his son; "Glamorous Jean" took her maiden flight in 2004; and

WHEREAS, contacted by the Presidential Inauguration Day parade committee through the Flying Circus Aerodrome and Airshow in Bealeton, Alvin Queen was asked to provide his P-51 Mustang—the only one of its kind in the area—for a special float honoring the 332nd Fighter Group; and

WHEREAS, also known as the Tuskegee Airmen, the 332nd Fighter Group, a distinguished unit of all African American pilots, flew harrowing missions to escort bombers over Germany during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Queen added several historical markings to his P-51 Mustang, including red paint on the tail of the aircraft to match the markings displayed by the Tuskegee Airmen; and

WHEREAS, shown on January 21, 2012, the parade float featured Alvin Queen's P-51 Mustang and several pictures of former Tuskegee Airmen; and

WHEREAS, Alvin Queen hopes to donate his P-51 Mustang to The Freedom Museum at Manassas Regional Airport, allowing future generations to appreciate the unique history it represents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That Alvin Queen, Jr., hereby be commended for successfully building a replica of a North American Aviation P-51 Mustang and using it to honor the 332nd Fighter Group; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Alvin Queen, Jr., as an expression of the House of Delegates' admiration for his work to honor the sacrifices of United States Armed Forces World War II veterans and his skill as an aviator.

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