

By Representative Westbrook

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House Resolution

A resolution paying tribute to the memory of  
John Edward "Zeke" Bagley.

WHEREAS, John Edward "Zeke" Bagley, born in Cottondale on September 25, 1923, the son of George E. and Margaret Jarvis Bagley, demonstrated leadership ability and a winning spirit early in life, and

WHEREAS, an excellent student, John Bagley was salutatorian of his graduating high school class, where he was president of the student body and a member of the Beta Club and the 4-H Club, and

WHEREAS, entering the University of Florida on a full academic scholarship, John Bagley left the university shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to volunteer as an aviation cadet in what was then the United States Army Air Corps, completing preflight training at Maxwell Training Center in Montgomery, Alabama, and finishing flight training as a navigator at the top of his class at Selman Field in Monroe, Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, after serving a short stint in the Mediterranean Theater, John Bagley was transferred to England on special assignment for missions support to the Normandy invasion, from where, on June 7, 1944, he embarked on an exceedingly dangerous mission to deliver vital ammunition to allied troops who had advanced from the beach and were engaged in heavy combat, and

WHEREAS, before the crew could complete its mission, the C-47 aircraft was hit by enemy fire, and John Edward Bagley lost his life that day in the service of his country, and

1           WHEREAS, although over 50 years have passed, those who  
2 knew "Zeke" Bagley still remember him as a bright, gifted,  
3 well-liked young man with a promising future before him, who  
4 gave his all for the nation he served so willingly and so  
5 well, NOW, THEREFORE,

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7 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
8 Florida:

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10           That the House of Representatives pauses in its  
11 deliberations to pay tribute to the memory of a remarkable  
12 young man and to express its gratitude for the ultimate  
13 sacrifice made by John Edward "Zeke" Bagley on behalf of his  
14 country.

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