



HR 9169

2003

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution designating May 30, 2003, as "United States
3 Navy Vigilante Day" in Florida.
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5 WHEREAS, the site of operational training for naval
6 aviators, flight officers, and flight crews during World War II,
7 the Korean War, and the Vietnam Conflict, the Naval Air Station
8 Sanford trained more than half of the Navy's World War II
9 fighter pilots, only half of whom remained alive at war's end;
10 was home base to Carrier Air Group THREE, whose pilots and crews
11 saw action in major Korean War battles; and sent Vigilante
12 pilots and crews to fly from every major carrier deployed to the
13 Pacific during the Vietnam War, all of them trained at NAS
14 Sanford; and its Vigilante and accompanying reconnaissance,
15 surveillance, and intelligence processing systems were key
16 components of the Navy's carrier battle groups in the last
17 decades of the Cold War, and

18 WHEREAS, the exceptionally close and harmonious
19 relationships between the Navy and civilian communities at
20 Sanford have been recognized at the highest levels of the naval
21 establishment as being without peer anywhere in the nation, and

22 WHEREAS, in 2000, the Sanford Airport Memorial Committee
23 was formed to provide a permanent memorial to all naval
24 personnel who served or trained at NAS Sanford, and since that
25 time many members of the retired military community, the
26 memorial committee, and numerous industry consultants have
27 provided dedicated leadership, talented and innovative design
28 and workmanship, and thousands of volunteer man hours to
29 acquire, transport, restore, and display a Vigilante aircraft at
30 the entrance to the Orlando-Sanford International Airport, and



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31 WHEREAS, the association of former United States Navy
32 Vigilante pilots has chosen the Naval Air Station Sanford for
33 its 2003 national reunion, NOW, THEREFORE,

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35 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
36 Florida:

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38 That the House of Representatives warmly welcomes the
39 pilots and naval flight officers of the Vigilante program to
40 Sanford, extends its heartiest congratulations to the Sanford
41 Airport Memorial Committee, the Sanford-Orlando International
42 Airport Authority, the City of Sanford, and the citizens of the
43 Sanford-Navy community and their guests on this occasion, and
44 proudly designates May 30, 2003, as "United States Navy
45 Vigilante Day" in Florida.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
47 presented to Captain Jack Dow, USN(Ret), President, Sanford
48 Airport Memorial Committee, and to Commander Charles Templin,
49 USN(Ret), representing the Vigilante pilots and crews and the
50 volunteer restoration teams, as a tangible token of the
51 sentiments expressed herein.