

HR 9143

2005

## 1 House Resolution

2 A resolution honoring General James T. Hill.

3  
4 WHEREAS, General James T. Hill was honored at a retirement  
5 ceremony on November 9, 2004, after having served from August  
6 2002 to November 2004 as commander of the United States Southern  
7 Command, a joint headquarter command comprised of members of all  
8 of the nation's military branches, as well as civilian  
9 employees, and

10 WHEREAS, originally from El Paso, Texas, General Hill was  
11 commissioned into the Infantry following graduation from Trinity  
12 University in San Antonio in 1968 and, after completing the  
13 Infantry Officers Basic, Ranger, and Airborne Courses and an  
14 initial assignment at Fort Hood, Texas, served with the 2-502d  
15 Infantry in the Republic of Vietnam as a rifle platoon leader,  
16 company executive officer, and company commander, and

17 WHEREAS, General Hill is a graduate of the Command and  
18 General Staff College and the National War College and also  
19 holds a Master's degree in Personnel Management from Central  
20 Michigan University, and

21 WHEREAS, General Hill's key posts in recent years have  
22 included the command of the "Always First" Brigade, 101st  
23 Airborne Division (Air Assault) from August 1989 through July  
24 1991, which saw action in Southwest Asia during Operations  
25 Desert Shield and Desert Storm; he served as the Deputy Chief of  
26 Staff, Operations, Forces Command, from June 1995 to June 1997;  
27 and he became Commanding General, 25th Infantry Division (Light)  
28 in June 1997 and served in that position until he was named

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29 Commanding General, I Corps, at Fort Lewis, Washington, from  
30 September 1999 until August 2002, when he assumed command of the  
31 United States Southern Command, and

32 WHEREAS, employing outstanding leadership, commitment, and  
33 professionalism, General Hill greatly enhanced operational  
34 excellence, developed the methodology for the command's focused  
35 theater security cooperation strategy, significantly improved  
36 partner nations' awareness and engagement of collective security  
37 threats, and strengthened military relations between the United  
38 States and countries in the Southern Command area of  
39 responsibility, and

40 WHEREAS, General Hill led the planning of, and seamless  
41 execution for, detention and interrogation operations of enemy  
42 combatants in the Global War on Terror detained at Naval Station  
43 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; managed with rare vision the command's  
44 immensely successful counter-drug strategy in the area; provided  
45 clear, concise support of Plan Colombia and Plan Patriota,  
46 receiving the country's highest military awards for aiding the  
47 Colombian military in its fight against narco-terrorist groups;  
48 and helped break down unwarranted restrictions on United States  
49 support to counter-terrorism in Colombia, and

50 WHEREAS, throughout his career, General Hill has led the  
51 men and women under his command with courage and respect, and  
52 his vision and leadership have helped secure our nation and  
53 improve relations with other countries, leading to our greater  
54 security, NOW, THEREFORE,

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56 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
57 | Florida:

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59 |       That General James T. Hill is recognized with utmost honor  
60 | and gratitude for his accomplishments with the United States  
61 | Southern Command Headquarters and is wished continued success in  
62 | the future.

63 |       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be  
64 | presented to General James T. Hill as a tangible token of the  
65 | sentiments expressed herein.