

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1047

By: Sullivan of the House

and

Williamson of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution honoring Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Thomas Jerome Hudner Jr. for his gallantry and fearless persistence in saving a fellow pilot's life; declaring March 25, 2006, LTJG Thomas Hudner Day in Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Thomas Jerome Hudner Jr. was born in Fall River, Massachusetts on August 31, 1924; and

WHEREAS, LTJG Thomas Hudner was a pilot in Fighter Squadron 32 of the United States Navy and serving in Korea; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 1950, in the Chosin Reservoir of Korea, LTJG Thomas Jerome Hudner Jr., United States Navy, emerged like a phoenix from the ashes of almost certain death and with valiant persistence struggled against terrain, weather and the enemy in his attempt to save a fellow pilot from death; and

WHEREAS, LTJG Hudner, aware of the danger of landing in rough mountainous terrain and in the presence of enemy troops, performed a deliberate wheels-up landing expertly to rescue a squadron mate whose plane had been shot down by antiaircraft fire; and

WHEREAS, LTJG Hudner with his bare hands in thirty-below weather packed the fuselage with snow to keep the flames away from the wounded pilot; and

WHEREAS, LTJG Hudner after struggling unsuccessfully to pull his fellow pilot free from the wreckage, returned to his aircraft and radioed other airborne planes requesting a helicopter; and

WHEREAS, LTJG Hudner remained with the downed aviator despite the continuing danger from enemy action and, with the assistance of the helicopter rescue pilot, renewed a desperate but unavailing battle against time, cold, and flames.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature praises LTJG Hudner for his altruism beyond the call of duty.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature extols LTJG Hudner's exceptionally valiant action and selfless devotion to a shipmate.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature acknowledges that LTJG Hudner's actions sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature declares March 25, 2006, LTJG Thomas Jerome Hudner Jr. Day in Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to LTJG Thomas Hudner and his family.

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