

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 1072

By: Hilliard of the House

and

Crutchfield of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution declaring June 3, 2006, as General Tommy Franks Day in Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, General Tommy Franks was born and spent his formative first seven years in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, before moving to Midland, Texas, where he graduated from Robert E. Lee High School one year ahead of First Lady Laura Bush; and

WHEREAS, after two years at the University of Texas, he joined the United States Army and in 1967, as a distinguished graduate of the Artillery Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and sent to Vietnam. His service in Vietnam earned him six awards for Valor and three Purple Hearts. That assignment was the start of a long and distinguished career that would take him from West Germany at the height of the Cold War to the Demilitarized Zone in Korea, to the deserts of Arabia where he gained the knowledge and experience that would prepare him for the leadership role that would mark his place in the annals of American History; and

WHEREAS, along the way, General Franks attended the University of Texas, Arlington, where he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, and Shippensburg University where he graduated with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He is

also a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Army War College; and

WHEREAS, in June 2000, he was promoted to four-star General and assigned as Commander, United States Central Command. It's in this position that the world knows Tommy Franks best - the culmination of an almost four-decade military career that saw him lead American and Coalition troops in two strategically unprecedented campaigns in two years - Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, the General's awards include five Distinguished Service Medals, four Legions of Merit, four Bronze Stars and three Purple Hearts in addition to numerous foreign awards. He was appointed Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE) by order of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on May 25, 2004. In addition, President George W. Bush awarded him the Nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom on December 14, 2004.

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush calls Franks "a down to earth, no-nonsense guy," his troops call him "a soldier's General," his associates call him "an astute businessman", Oklahomans call him a native, and his grandkids call him "Pooh."

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 commends General Tommy Franks for his dedication, passion, and loyalty to keeping the United States, its citizens, and its freedom safe.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature declares June 3, 2006, General Tommy Franks Day in Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to General Tommy Franks, his family and the Wynnewood Chamber of Commerce.