

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 50

By: Garrison

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising Colonel Albert E. Hill for his outstanding war record and distinguished military career; commending him for his war diary; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Albert Eldon Hill was born in September 11, 1921, at Lockney, Texas. He was an honor graduate of two West Texas schools, Lockney High School and Texas Tech University. He enlisted into what would become the United States Air Force on August 6, 1940, as a weather forecaster. Hill was promoted to Corporal and then Sergeant before being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and assigned as a Bombardier-Navigator; and

WHEREAS, Albert Hill was lead bombardier in a B-26 for 44 of his 79 missions over Europe during World War II. On one of his missions, radio reporter Edward R. Murrow went along for the ride and later commented on the air on the competence and courage of the then Captain Hill. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, he was Lead Bombardier of an 18-plane formation of B-26s, the last Group to bomb behind Utah Beach just before the first assault troops hit the coast of Normandy. Albert Hill was promoted to Major at the age of 22 years. He also served as the lead bombardier on the first combat mission of the Douglas A-26 in the European Theater of Operations. This formation consisted of two flights of seven planes each. The date was September 6, 1944. The target was a German Coastal Battery near Brest, France; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Albert E. Hill retired from the United States Air Force on September 11, 1981. While serving in the military, Colonel Hill received the following decorations: Presidential Unit Citation, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 13 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the European Campaign Medal and three Battle Stars, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Hill kept and maintained a war diary. His granddaughter Emily Hedges wrote a script for an historical video documentary based on the diary and Colonel Hill's recollections. The video, "From Widow-Maker to Unsung Hero", produced by David and Sue Hoffman, Hill's daughter and son-in-law, tells the story of the B-26 Marauder and the men who flew it in the European theater during World War II. "From Widow-Maker to Unsung Hero" won a 2002 National Silver Telly Award. The Telly Award honors creativity in non-network commercials and film and video documentaries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises Muskogee, Oklahoma, resident Colonel Albert E. Hill (United States Air Force Retired) for his outstanding war record and distinguished military career.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Colonel Albert E. Hill for maintaining his war diary and making it available as the basis of the 2002 National Silver Telly Award video, "From Widow-Maker to Unsung Hero", the story of the B-26 Marauder and the men who flew it.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Foundation and Colonel Albert E. Hill.

50-1-1815

THC

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