

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 45

By: Aldridge, Adelson,  
Anderson, Ballenger,  
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,  
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,  
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,  
Corn, Crain, Crutchfield,  
Easley, Eason McIntyre,  
Ellis, Ford, Garrison,  
Gumm, Halligan, Ivester,  
Johnson (Constance),  
Johnson (Mike), Jolley,  
Justice, Lamb, Laster,  
Leftwich, Lerblance,  
Marlatt, Mazzei, Myers,  
Newberry, Nichols, Paddack,  
Reynolds, Rice, Russell,  
Schulz, Sparks,  
Stanislawski, Sweeden,  
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution recognizing the role of Tinker Air Force Base personnel in the rescue and recovery efforts in the wake of the May 3, 1999, tornado; thanking and appreciating the contributions of Tinker Air Force Base; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, ten years ago, one of the most destructive tornadoes in Oklahoma history struck central Oklahoma, including Tinker Air Force Base. In mere minutes, the May 3, 1999, F5 tornado with its ghastly mile-wide funnel caused approximately \$16 million in damage at Tinker and ultimately claimed the lives of five Tinker personnel. Despite their own devastation, Tinker personnel stepped into rescue mode and aided the ailing community around them; and

WHEREAS, the men and women serving at Tinker Air Force Base began lifesaving actions as soon as the danger had passed. The Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center's personnel reported to the base and immediately dispatched fire department personnel, security forces, and emergency medical response teams. Tinker fire department personnel were dispatched to assist Del City in their recovery efforts while security forces patrolled on and off base, and medical group personnel set up a triage area outside the hospital to treat the injured; and

WHEREAS, Tinker personnel opened up the Gerrity Gym to serve as a staging area for 500 off- and on-base personnel immediately following the tornado. They began treating people with minor injuries while also providing food, water, and a warm, dry, safe place to stay before transitioning to other base facilities or returning home; and

WHEREAS, personnel from the 552nd Air Control Wing, 507th Air Refueling Wing, the U.S. Navy's Strategic Communications Wing One, 513th Air Control Group, and 3rd Combat Communications Group started arriving of their own volition as soon as the "all clear" was sounded. They established emergency overnight shelters and a safe place to bed nearly 300 Del City residents left homeless by the tornado; and

WHEREAS, military members were recalled in support of the Civil Defense Teams of Oklahoma City and Midwest City while both military and civil service employees from Tinker voluntarily organized and joined search and rescue teams to scour the Midwest City and Del City areas to ensure accountability of Oklahoma residents; and

WHEREAS, the men and women, military and civilian, serving Tinker Air Force Base from the many units within the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center reached out to console the bereaved and sustain the survivors. Numerous stories exist on how the men and women of Tinker helped as neighbor-to-neighbor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the role of Tinker Air Force Base personnel in the rescue and recovery efforts in the wake of the May 3, 1999, tornado that devastated central Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate thanks the people and organizations stationed at Tinker Air Force Base and appreciates Tinker Air Force Base as a good neighbor and major contributor to the well-being of the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Major General P. David Gillett, Jr., Commander, Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center; Colonel Patricia D. Hoffman, Commander, 552nd Air Control Wing; Colonel Jeffery R. Glass, Commander, 507th Air Refueling Wing; Captain Dwight D. Shepherd, Commander, United States Navy Strategic Communications Wing ONE; Colonel John E. Trnka, Commander, 513th Air Control Group; and Colonel Thomas A. Byrge, Jr., Commander, 3rd Combat Communications Group.

Adopted by the Senate the 29th day of April, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate