

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1094

By: Jackson

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution honoring Charles E. Taylor as the Father  
8 of Aviation Maintenance and recognizing Charles E.  
9 Taylor as the Man Aviation History Almost Forgot;  
10 designating May 24, 2010, Aircraft Maintenance  
Technicians Day in the State of Oklahoma; and  
directing distribution.

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12  
13 WHEREAS, Charles Edward Taylor was born in a log cabin on the  
14 banks of the Sangamon River in Illinois on May 24, 1868. Quitting  
15 school at the age of twelve, Charles Taylor went to work at a  
16 bindery where he became an expert with tools. In 1896, he opened  
17 his own tool shop in Dayton, Ohio; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1901, the Wright brothers convinced him to work for  
19 them in their bicycle shop. After an unsuccessful flight in a  
20 glider near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, Charles Taylor built the  
21 Wright brothers a wind tunnel where various design problems could be  
22 solved; and

23 WHEREAS, Charles Taylor built a dependable four-cylinder,  
24 twelve-horsepower engine for the Wright brothers' plane. He also

1 made all the metal parts for the airplane. The engine and highly  
2 ingenious test equipment Charles Taylor so carefully built for the  
3 Wrights were significant factors in making possible man's first  
4 successful powered flight; and

5 WHEREAS, after the first successful flight, the Wrights asked  
6 Charles Taylor to build a more powerful engine. The Wright brothers  
7 received permission to test their plane in a field called Huffman  
8 Prairie, near Dayton, Ohio, provided they didn't kill any cows.  
9 Working most of the time at Huffman Prairie, Charles Taylor became  
10 the world's first aircraft maintainer and airport manager. When the  
11 Wrights began airplane production, Charles Taylor was placed in  
12 charge of engine manufacture. He continued to assist the Wrights,  
13 going with Wilbur to the Hudson-Fulton Exposition in New York in  
14 1910 and with Orville to Montgomery, Alabama, to establish a flying  
15 school; and

16 WHEREAS, Charles Taylor worked in Dayton until 1928, when he  
17 moved to California, where he worked in the tool room of North  
18 American Aviation. No one knew who he was. In 1937, he returned to  
19 Greenfield Village to restore the Wrights' bicycle shop and home and  
20 to build a replica of the first engine. He returned to California  
21 and worked making cartridge shells. Charles Taylor retired at age  
22 77 and died at age 88 on January 30, 1956. He was buried in the  
23 Portal of Folded Wings Mausoleum dedicated to aviation pioneers,  
24 located in Valhalla Memorial Park, Los Angeles, California; and

1           WHEREAS, Charles Taylor never sought recognition for his work  
2 with the Wright brothers nor did anyone ever recognize his  
3 contributions. He was never in touch with important aviation  
4 personages nor was he ever invited to attend any of the big  
5 celebrations held in honor of the Wright brothers. It seems that if  
6 anyone had ever thought much about him, they hadn't taken the time  
7 to find him; and

8           WHEREAS, the Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" award recognizes  
9 aviation maintenance personnel who have at least fifty years of  
10 experience in the aviation industry. The Charles E. Taylor Memorial  
11 was unveiled on the campus of Wright State University on May 24,  
12 2003, which is Charles Taylor's birthday and one hundred years after  
13 he made powered flight a reality. Today, more than three-quarters  
14 of the states have designated May 24 as "Aircraft Maintenance  
15 Technicians Day".

16           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
17 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18           THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives honors Charles E.  
19 Taylor as "The Father of Aviation Maintenance" and recognizes  
20 Charles E. Taylor as "The Man Aviation History Almost Forgot".

21           THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives designates May 24,  
22 2010, as "Aircraft Maintenance Technicians Day" in the State of  
23 Oklahoma.

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1        THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Aircraft  
2 Maintenance Technicians Association, the 76th Maintenance Wing, the  
3 Federal Aviation Administration Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center,  
4 American Airlines, and AAR Aircraft Services.

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