

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 45

By: Aldridge

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

19 WHEREAS, the men and women serving at Tinker Air Force Base
20 began lifesaving actions as soon as the danger had passed. The
21 Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center's personnel reported to the base
22 and immediately dispatched fire department personnel, security
23 forces, and emergency medical response teams. Tinker fire
24 department personnel were dispatched to assist Del City in their

1 recovery efforts while security forces patrolled on and off base,
2 and medical group personnel set up a triage area outside the
3 hospital to treat the injured; and

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

10 WHEREAS, personnel from the 552nd Air Control Wing, 507th Air
11 Refueling Wing, the U.S. Navy's Strategic Communications Wing One,
12 513th Air Control Group, and 3rd Combat Communications Group started
13 arriving of their own volition as soon as the "all clear" was
14 sounded. They established emergency overnight shelters and a safe
15 place to bed nearly 300 Del City residents left homeless by the
16 tornado; and

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

22 WHEREAS, the men and women, military and civilian, serving
23 Tinker Air Force Base from the many units within the Oklahoma City
24 Air Logistics Center reached out to console the bereaved and sustain

1 the survivors. Numerous stories exist on how the men and women of
2 Tinker helped as neighbor-to-neighbor.

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

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

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

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

20

21 52-1-1878 THC 4/28/2009 12:20:06 PM

22

23

24