STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1044 By: Wright

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution expressing deep appreciation; designating March 22, 2016, as General Stafford Day in Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Thomas P. Stafford's mother came to Oklahoma in a covered wagon, and yet lived to see her only child fly to the Moon; and

WHEREAS, he was born in Weatherford in 1930 and graduated from Weatherford High School in 1948; and

WHEREAS, General Stafford graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis with honors and then chose to become a U.S. Air Force pilot; and

WHEREAS, he was selected among the second group of NASA astronauts in 1962 to participate in Projects Gemini and Apollo; and

WHEREAS, General Stafford flew four historic space missions (Gemini 6, Gemini 9, Apollo 10 and Apollo-Soyuz), three of them as the mission Commander; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, he commanded the Apollo 10 mission to the Moon, and performed the last full dress rehearsal for a lunar landing; and

WHEREAS, he served as Chief of all astronauts from 1969 to 1971, and was the first astronaut to become a General, eventually becoming a three-star Lieutenant General; and

WHEREAS, General Stafford was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts as Commander of the Apollo-Soyuz mission - the first joint international space flight between astronaut crews from the Soviet Union and the U.S. - an event that proved to be so significant that it led to the beginning of the end of the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, he was presented the Congressional Space Medal of Honor by President George Bush - the country's highest aerospace honor; and

WHEREAS, after leaving NASA in 1975, General Stafford was named Commander of the Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base, Commander of the top-secret "Area 51" test facility, later led the development of stealth technology, and is considered the "father" of the F-117 and B-2 stealth aircraft; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 85, he is still considered a greatly trusted consultant to numerous aerospace companies, NASA, and the Russian space program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives expresses deep appreciation to General Thomas Stafford for the many contributions he has made to the United States and to the field of aviation.

THAT March 22, 2016, is hereby proclaimed as General Stafford Day in Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to General Stafford.

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