



HR0651

LRB104 20450 RMO 33915 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to recognize Brigadier General Paul W.
4 Tibbets Jr., who provided 29 years of faithful service in the
5 United States Air Force during a perilous time, giving
6 security to the citizens of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Tibbets was born in Quincy in
8 1915, and he graduated from Western Military Academy in Alton
9 in 1933; and

10 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Tibbets entered the United
11 States Army Air Corps on February 25, 1937, graduating from
12 pilot school in 1938; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1942, Brigadier General Tibbets was commander
14 of the 340th Bomb Squadron, 97th Bomb Group and flew 25 combat
15 missions in B-17s, including the first American Flying
16 Fortress raid against occupied Europe; and

17 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Tibbets led the first heavy
18 bombardment mission in support of the invasion of North Africa
19 in November 1942 and flew General Mark Clark to rendezvous
20 with French forces prior to the invasion; on the night of the
21 invasion, he flew General Dwight D. Eisenhower to Gibraltar

1 and flew General Clark to Algiers, where he took command of the
2 invasion forces; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1944, Brigadier General Tibbets was assigned
4 to the atomic bomb project as the officer in charge of
5 developing an organization to deploy it; he flew the first
6 mission against enemy forces, dropping the bomb on Hiroshima
7 in 1945; and

8 WHEREAS, Brigadier General Tibbets graduated from the Air
9 Command and Staff School in 1947 and the Air War College in
10 1955; he retired in 1966 after 29 years of faithful service,
11 during which he provided security to every citizen of the
12 United States and brought peace to the world during a perilous
13 time; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
15 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
16 we recognize the lasting and significant contributions of
17 Brigadier General Paul W. Tibbets Jr. to the United States Air
18 Force and the State of Illinois.