

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

BY SENATORS PEACOCK, ALARIO, ALLAIN, APPEL, BARROW, BISHOP, BOUDREAUX, BROWN, CARTER, CHABERT, CLAITOR, COLOMB, CORTEZ, DONAHUE, ERDEY, FANNIN, GATTI, HEWITT, JOHNS, LAFLEUR, LAMBERT, LONG, LUNEAU, MARTINY, MILKOVICH, MILLS, MIZELL, MORRELL, MORRISH, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE AND REPRESENTATIVES GLOVER AND HORTON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend and congratulate the commanders, officers, and airmen of the United States Eighth Air Force, Barksdale Air Force Base, upon the occasion of its seventy-fifth anniversary celebration.

WHEREAS, throughout history, whether in peace time or during war, the Eighth Air Force has maintained a sterling reputation for its prompt action when a call to arms was required in foreign locales and was delivered with the utmost professionalism; and

WHEREAS, known as "The Mighty Eighth," this combat-ready military organization headquartered at Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana, safeguards American interests at home and throughout the world with its capacity for strategic deterrence and global combat; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of The Mighty Eighth, both past and present, have proudly served on every continent in thousands of air campaigns from its activation in 1942 during World War II in the European Theater while still a part of the United States Army Air Corps, and the Eighth Air Force has actively served continuously through historic conflicts in Southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf, and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, presently, leadership for the Eighth Air Force lies in the capable hands of Major General Thomas A. Bussiere who follows in the footsteps of extraordinary commanders who have come before, that include Colonel Asa N. Duncan, Brigadier General Ira C. Eaker, and General James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, to name just a few; and

WHEREAS, The Mighty Eighth upholds a legacy of military service in its present-day functions as an information operations and intelligence wing along with its

long-range nuclear-capable bomber assets; the Eighth Air Force remains a combat-ready presence whose objectives include maintaining international peace and security; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force is an essential component of the United States Air Force Global Strike Command; with the designation Task Force 204, The Mighty Eighth provides on-alert, combat-ready forces at the immediate discretion of the President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, as commander, Major General Thomas Bussiere has issued his expectations for success, and these tenets demand a singular vision of "one force" focused on discipline, excellence, and pride with continuous improvement of its readiness, strong warrior culture, and global strike capability; and, lastly, the Eighth Air Force continues to uphold these priorities to deter the enemy, to assure the public, to integrate seamlessly with other military forces, and to execute orders to the letter; and

WHEREAS, while the tyranny of foreign dictators and despots makes for an uneasy world peace, yet, when called upon, The Mighty Eighth will be "in the thick of it" when armed conflicts erupt that involve the United States or its allies; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force has become a welcome addition to community life in Northwestern Louisiana since its move to Barksdale AFB in 1972 and its presence provides a steadfast reminder of the vast air supremacy of the United States military.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the United States Eighth Air Force on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of its activation and does hereby congratulate the commanders, officers, and airmen of The Mighty Eighth on its exemplary history of military air defense readiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Major General Thomas A. Bussiere, Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, Louisiana.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES