

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1067

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the National Celebration of General Aviation Flyover.

WHEREAS, in 1939, several significant events took place to usher in a new era of general aviation that would solidify its important place in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the American general aviation industry transitioned from its "Golden Age" to full mobilization for World War II, during which time the airplane changed from a slow, wood-and-fabric biplane to a fast, sleek, all-metal monoplane; and

WHEREAS, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Civilian Pilot Training Act, which provided a needed boost to general aviation by delivering pilot training to 20,000 college students each year. At the peak of the Civilian Pilot Training Program, 1,132 educational institutions and 1,460 flight schools participated in the program; and

WHEREAS, also in 1939, President Roosevelt established National Aviation Day to celebrate Orville Wright's birthday, and the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) was founded to protect the freedom to fly while keeping general aviation safe, fun, and affordable; and

WHEREAS, today, the U.S. general aviation industry is composed of more than 200,000 aircraft, safely flies over 26 million flight hours, and registers 30 million safe takeoffs and landings per year, while the AOPA is the largest and most trusted resource for all things related to general aviation; and

WHEREAS, general aviation contributes over \$247 billion in economic impact, supports 1.2 million jobs across the country, and often serves as a vital lifeline for communities through missions of disaster relief, humanitarian aid, law enforcement, and agricultural support; and

WHEREAS, over 650,000 registered pilots in the United States access more than 5,100 public use airports and another 14,000 privately owned airfields, more than any other country in the world. These pilots and airports connect communities across America with the National Air Transportation system; and

WHEREAS, general aviation is safe; moreover, it is safer than it ever has been, and trending even safer. General aviation safety performance over the last several decades is impressive – the fatal accident rate (our traditional measuring stick) has dropped to 0.73 per 100,000 flight hours, a historic record that is less than half of what it was in the mid-1990s; and

WHEREAS, over the last eighty-five years, our citizens have marveled at the continual technological advancements in general aviation, which have improved our lives, enabled access to communities across the country, created hundreds of billions of dollars in economic impact and growth, and propelled the U.S. as the world leader in general aviation; and

WHEREAS, people travel from around the world to access the exceptional training and the freedom in this country to fly general aviation aircraft. Foreign governments send their most critical pilots here for training to fly their most precious dignitaries and train for careers in the airlines; and

WHEREAS, Americans Orville and Wilbur Wright first harnessed powered flight at Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, and Charles Lindbergh became the most famous person the world had ever known when he departed U.S. soil in an American-built aircraft to cross the Atlantic, providing a deep source of American pride and identity; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has 3,086 registered general aviation aircraft, 17,712 licensed pilots, and seventy-seven public-use airports; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee public-use airports bring over \$40 billion in economic activity annually and support more than 220,000 jobs in the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee public-use airports welcome more than 6.5 million visitors annually, support 450 businesses employing over 31,640 people, and support a vast amount of industries and organizations, including medical, military, sports, and agricultural operations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the National Celebration of General Aviation Flyover in Washington, D.C., on May 11, 2024, which will showcase the success of American general aviation in the United States over the past eighty-five years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.