

APR 13 2005
Laid Over Under Rule 25

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY SWAIM

A Resolution to recognize and honor Johnny

Talbot of Centerville for his service as a navy
fighter pilot in the Battle of Midway.

WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot, a native of Centerville,
served in the United States Navy from 1939 through the
end of World War II; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot was a navy fighter pilot and
at 22 years of age flew an F4F-4 Wildcat in the Battle
of Midway; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 1942, Johnny Talbot departed in
his Wildcat knowing he did not have enough fuel to
make it back to his carrier, the USS Hornet; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot's part in the engagement
ended after four hours of flight time when his Wildcat
ran out of fuel; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot had only 25 to 30 seconds to
exit his cramped cockpit and reach into a back
compartment to retrieve his life raft before the
Wildcat sank; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot almost went down with the
plane when his foot became snagged on an antenna; and

WHEREAS, once in the water, Johnny Talbot found
that his life raft would not automatically inflate and
his air pump would not work, so he used his breath to
inflate the raft; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot spent six days lost at sea,
scorched by the sun and chilled by the night, with
only a half canteen of water and a bottle of malt

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1 tablets for survival, without knowledge of whether
2 American forces were left after the engagement to
3 mount rescue operations; and

4 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot saw several planes fly
5 overhead before a PBV Catalina patrol plane finally
6 spotted him and landed; and

7 WHEREAS, soon after being released from the
8 hospital, Johnny Talbot taught Army Air Corps pilots
9 about flying in combat; and

10 WHEREAS, for the rest of the war, Johnny Talbot was
11 transferred between actual combat assignments and the
12 teaching of new pilots; and

13 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot, having had many experiences
14 throughout his navy service, also escorted the famous
15 Jimmy Doolittle raid halfway to Tokyo, in which 16 B-
16 25 twin-engine bombers left the deck of the USS Hornet
17 to complete a surprise bombing on the Japanese
18 mainland; and

19 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot is among the last of
20 surviving U.S. Navy aviators that so courageously
21 served in the Battle of Midway, making the personal
22 sacrifice required to succeed against Japan in World
23 War II; NOW THEREFORE,

24 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
25 That the House of Representatives honors Johnny Talbot
26 of Centerville for his service to our nation,
27 especially his service as a navy fighter pilot in the
28 Battle of Midway; and

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, a copy
30 of this Resolution be prepared for and transmitted to

1 Johnny Talbot.

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