

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 47

2 BY KREIMAN

3 A Resolution to recognize and honor Johnny

4 Talbot of Centerville for his service as a navy
5 fighter pilot in the Battle of Midway.6 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot, a native of Centerville,
7 served in the United States Navy from 1939 through the
8 end of World War II; and9 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot was a navy fighter pilot and
10 at 22 years of age flew an F4F-4 Wildcat in the Battle
11 of Midway; and12 WHEREAS, on June 4, 1942, Johnny Talbot departed in
13 his Wildcat knowing he did not have enough fuel to
14 make it back to his carrier, the USS Hornet; and15 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot's part in the engagement
16 ended after four hours of flight time when his Wildcat
17 ran out of fuel; and18 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot had only 25 to 30 seconds to
19 exit his cramped cockpit and reach into a back
20 compartment to retrieve his life raft before the
21 Wildcat sank; and22 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot almost went down with the
23 plane when his foot became snagged on an antenna; and24 WHEREAS, once in the water, Johnny Talbot found
25 that his life raft would not automatically inflate and
26 his air pump would not work, so he used his breath to
27 inflate the raft; and28 WHEREAS, Johnny Talbot spent six days lost at sea,
29 scorched by the sun and chilled by the night, with
30 only a half canteen of water and a bottle of maltSR 47
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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 PBY 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 SENATE, That the Senate
25 honors Johnny Talbot of Centerville for his service to
26 our nation, especially his service as a navy fighter
27 pilot in the Battle of Midway; and

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

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