

**No. R-128. House concurrent resolution honoring the memory of 1st Lieutenant Irwin Zaetz and Captain William Swanson of the World War II U.S. Army Air Corps Hot as Hell aircraft crew and the work of Clayton Kuhles in locating missing in action World War II American military aircraft.**

(H.C.R.89)

Offered by: Representatives Head of South Burlington, Cole of Burlington, Moran of Wardsboro, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Savage of Swanton, Stevens of Waterbury, Townsend of South Burlington, Van Wyck of Ferrisburgh, Vowinkel of Wilder, and Weed of Enosburgh

Whereas, during World War II, U.S. Army Air Corps crews flew missions in the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater to ferry war materials to China, and

Whereas, on January 25, 1944, a U.S. Army Air Corps crew of eight, including two Vermonters, was flying a B-24J Liberator named Hot as Hell and disappeared on a flight from Kunming, China to Chabua, India, and

Whereas, U.S. Army Air Corps 1st Lieutenant Irwin Zaetz of Burlington, a member of the 425th Bombardment Squadron, 308th Bombardment Group, was serving as the navigator, and

Whereas, his fellow officer, U.S. Army Air Corps Captain William Swanson of Proctor, was in the cockpit of this ill-fated flight, and

Whereas, for over 60 years, the crash site of their B-24J had not been identified, and

Whereas, in 2006, a civilian, Clayton Kuhles of Arizona, who has financed a humanitarian search for all the CBI crash sites and has located over 20, found the downed Hot as Hell aircraft, and

Whereas, since 2006, the extended Zaetz family has received support from both of Vermont's U.S. Senators, the Department of Vermont Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Rabbi Joshua Chasan of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington for a federal government search to recover the remains of the plane's crew, and to bring the families true closure to the crew's disappearance during World War II, and

Whereas, Lieutenant Zaetz, Captain Swanson, and all military personnel who are missing in action are heroes, including those from Vermont who include 167 from World War II, seven from the Korean Conflict, and four from the Vietnam War, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the memory of 1st Lieutenant Irwin Zaetz and Captain William Swanson of the World War II U.S. Army Air Corps Hot as Hell aircraft crew and the work of Clayton Kuhles in locating missing in action World War II American military aircraft, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the families of 1st Lieutenant Irwin Zaetz and of Captain William Swanson, to Clayton Kuhles, to the Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Vermont Veterans of Foreign Wars, and to Rabbi Joshua Chasan.