

**No. R-292. House concurrent resolution congratulating Jay Karpin on the French government's appointing him a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor.**

(H.C.R.219)

Offered by: Representatives Partridge of Windham and Trieber of Rockingham

Whereas, in 1942, immediately on graduating from Hicksville (New York) High School, Jay Karpin enlisted for World War II military service in the U.S. Army Air Force, and

Whereas, he trained as a bombardier, the member of an air crew who targeted the aerial bombs, and as an aircraft navigator and was assigned to the 493rd Bombardment Group of the Eighth Air Force in Europe, and

Whereas, on historic D-Day (June 6, 1944), Jay Karpin flew his first combat mission, one of that day's first Allied inland-bound bombing missions and, from above, witnessed the ships and soldiers landing at Omaha Beach, and

Whereas, he flew his 35th and final bombing mission on November 25, 1944, achieving 100 percent bombing accuracy from either a B-24 Liberator or a B-17 Flying Fortress, drawing on his singular focus and youthful maturity, and

Whereas, Jay Karpin's survival was fortunate, as more than 26,000 members of the Eighth Air Force perished during World War II, and

Whereas, the U.S. Government awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross; the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with four service stars; and a Presidential Unit Citation from President Franklin Roosevelt; and Eighth Air Force Commander, Major General James Doolittle, issued him a personal citation of commendation, and

Whereas, post-war, Jay Karpin worked at Republic Aviation in New York State, moved to Grafton, Vermont, in 1958, serving on the selectboard and planning commission and, working in his barn, established now Springfield-based Vermont Precision Products, and

Whereas, the U.S. Air Force honored Jay Karpin as a member of its Veterans in Blue program, and

Whereas, in recognition of Jay Karpin's heroism and bravery as a World War II bombardier of the European military theater, the French government recently awarded him the Legion of Honor, that nation's highest award for a noncitizen, and in January 2016, at 91 years of age, he will formally accept his appointment as a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor in a ceremony at the French Consul General's Office in Boston, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates Jay Karpin on the special recognition of the French government's appointing him a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Jay Karpin.