

**No. R-361. House concurrent resolution commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Vermont Air National Guard.**

(H.C.R.276)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, as long ago as World War I, the Vermont National Guard included aviation units, and this remained true through World War II, and

Whereas, however, as World War II was concluding, the prospect of a National Guard aviation presence at the Burlington Airport was uncertain, and

Whereas, on May 28, 1946, the Burlington Board of Alderman voted to deed to the State of Vermont the needed land for the construction of two hangars and the rights of way to use the runways, and

Whereas, on July 1, 1946, the U.S. Army Air Force announced the establishment of the Vermont Air National Guard (VTANG), and

Whereas, the VTANG's first commanding officer was Lt. Colonel William Bowden, and the original contingent of veteran World War II pilots numbered 25, and

Whereas, on August 14, 1946, the U.S. Army Air Force designated the VTANG as the 134th Fighter Squadron, and the VTANG's dual mission included assisting in State disasters and emergencies and supporting federal aviation defense efforts, and

Whereas, the U.S. Army Air Force sent AT-6 and L-5 trainers, and a C-47 "Gooney bird" transport plane, but a fleet of far superior Thunderbolt aircraft arrived soon thereafter as replacements for the original airplanes, and

Whereas, in 1948, the Burlington electorate approved a \$150,000.00 bond as the city's contribution towards airport improvements, including needed runway extensions to meet the needs of military aircraft, and

Whereas, during the Korean War, the VTANG was federalized, the first of many foreign deployments for the Vermont-based pilots, and

Whereas, in 1956, the 134th Fighter Squadron was designated as the 158th Fighter Group (Air Defense), and in 1992, it was redesignated as the 158th Fighter Wing, and

Whereas, in 2016, as it observes its 70th anniversary, the VTANG, now flying F-16 aircraft, has evolved into a modern and sophisticated airborne military force that has served our State and country well in times of war and peace, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Vermont Air National Guard on its 70th anniversary, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Colonel Patrick M. Guinee, Wing Commander 158th Fighter Wing, Vermont Air National Guard.