

1 SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

2 BY LARSON, WARNSTADT, IVERSON, and GRONSTAL

3 A Resolution to recognize the life and accomplishments  
4 of Colonel Virgil D. Olson, United States Marine  
5 Corps-Retired.

6 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson, a man of humble  
7 background, worked throughout his life serving freedom  
8 and advancing the public good, having served in the  
9 United States Marine Corps as a naval aviator and as  
10 the first helicopter pilot assigned to the President  
11 of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson began his life in  
13 Charter Oak, Iowa, graduating from Charter Oak High  
14 School in 1937, after which he enrolled in Willamette  
15 University and subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Navy  
16 at Salem, Oregon, on April 7, 1941, being commissioned  
17 as a Second Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps, after  
18 flight school; and

19 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson flew torpedo  
20 bombers in the Solomon Islands until May 1944, when he  
21 returned to the United States to marry his college  
22 sweetheart, Jean Rodgers, returning again to the  
23 Pacific theater of World War II in May 1945 to fly  
24 combat missions in the Palau Islands, the Philippines,  
25 and Okinawa, and over Tsingtao, China; and

26 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson served a tour on  
27 Guam after World War II, attended amphibious warfare  
28 school, and later was ordered to helicopter training  
29 and served a tour in Korea followed by an assignment  
30 to Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, Florida;

SR 41

RULES &amp; ADMINISTRATION

1 and

2 WHEREAS, in 1955, Colonel Virgil D. Olson became  
3 the Commanding Officer of Marine Experimental  
4 Helicopter Squadron One (HMX-1) at Quantico, Virginia;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, in 1957, HMX-1 was designated the official  
7 helicopter squadron for the President of the United  
8 States of America; and

9 WHEREAS, flying Sikorsky helicopters, Colonel  
10 Virgil D. Olson was the sole individual assigned as  
11 helicopter pilot for the President of the United  
12 States; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1959, Colonel Virgil D. Olson completed  
14 the Senior Officers' Course at the Marine Corps School  
15 at Quantico, and was named Air Boss and Commanding  
16 Officer of the Marine detachment aboard the carrier  
17 USS Boxer; and

18 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson served at the  
19 Pentagon in the Office of the Chief of Naval  
20 Operations, became the Commanding Officer of Marine  
21 Helicopter Training Group-30, served as Chief of Staff  
22 of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing in El Toro,  
23 California; and

24 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson served as Chief of  
25 Staff of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing in DaNang,  
26 Vietnam, and returned to Quantico as Chief of Staff,  
27 Marine Corps Education and Development Command, before  
28 retiring in July 1973; and

29 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson's decorations  
30 include two Distinguished Flying Crosses, seven Air

1 Medals, the Legion of Merit with Combat V, and the  
2 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm; and

3 WHEREAS, on February 26, 2005, Colonel Virgil D.  
4 Olson attained the age of 86 years; NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate  
6 congratulates retired Colonel Virgil D. Olson for his  
7 lifetime of achievements and honors him for his many  
8 decades of service to the United States of America.

9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35