

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 126

BY ALONS, HUTTER, FREVERT, FREEMAN, PETTENGILL,
WENDT, ARNOLD, DE BOEF, JACOBY, KURTENBACH,
CARROLL, WATTS, CHAMBERS, D. OLSON, LUKAN,
HOFFMAN, EICHHORN, HUSEMAN, SANDS, SODERBERG,
WILDERDYKE, TJEKES, and HEATON

A Resolution to honor the service of the 185th Air
Refueling Wing, Iowa Air National Guard.

WHEREAS, the Iowa Air National Guard located in
America's heartland at Sioux Gateway Airport in Sioux
City, Iowa, houses the 185th Fighter Wing which was
originally established in December 1946 as the 174th
Fighter Squadron; and

WHEREAS, the unit originally was equipped with P-51
Mustangs and by 1991 was flying the famous F-16
fighter; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the 185th Fighter Wing was
redesignated the 185th Air Refueling Wing ("ARW"),
Iowa Air National Guard, flying KC-135E refueling
tankers; and

WHEREAS, that redesignation, first announced in
2001, required the 185th to completely redesign its
facilities and design the unit's own training program,
recruit its own instructors, and, in many cases,
repair salvaged equipment, all while still fulfilling
its current mission of flying F-16 aircraft until
December 2002; and

WHEREAS, by the fall of 2004, the 185th was flying
KC-135E tankers out of Geilenkirchen, Germany,
supporting NATO AWACS refueling missions; and

HR 126

1 WHEREAS, in its 50-year history the 185th has
2 served the United States of America with distinction
3 and has garnered numerous awards, including the Air
4 Force Association's Outstanding Unit Award, 1956; the
5 Spaatz Trophy, recognizing the unit as the most
6 outstanding Air National Guard squadron in the nation
7 in 1956; the Presidential Unit Citation and Air Force
8 Outstanding Unit award during Viet Nam activation,
9 1968; the Air Force Outstanding Unit award five times
10 for exceptionally meritorious service, 1985, 1986,
11 1987, 1989, and 1991; the Maintenance Team Award
12 Gunsmoke, 1989; the Spaatz Trophy, won for a second
13 time, 1990; the Air Force Association's Outstanding
14 Unit Award, 1994; and the Winston P. Wilson Safety
15 Award, 1994; and

16 WHEREAS, the 185th Air Refueling Wing provided
17 critical domestic aid during the Katrina disaster in
18 2005, flying a total of 78 sorties, the most sorties
19 by any KC-135 unit, with 185 members of the 185th
20 supporting Katrina missions; and

21 WHEREAS, the vision of the 185th Air Refueling Wing
22 is to be the premier air refueling wing, ready to be
23 the first wing to be called up for service; to
24 preserve and enhance the value of the citizen soldier;
25 to be proactive in facing the changes in technology
26 and challenges of 21st Century; to reflect the
27 cultural diversity of the community; and to promote a
28 climate of diversity, growth, creativity, and
29 teamwork; NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

1 That the House of Representatives, on behalf of all
2 Iowans, congratulates the men and women of the 185th
3 Air Refueling Wing, Iowa Air National Guard, and their
4 commander Colonel John Janson for 50 years of
5 dedicated service and thanks them for their
6 selflessness and willingness to place themselves in
7 harm's way to protect the United States of America.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30