

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 22

1
2 BY LARSON, WARNSTADT, IVERSON, and GRONSTAL
3 A Resolution to recognize the life and accomplishments
4 of Colonel Virgil D. Olson.

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

11 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson began his life in
12 Charter Oak, Iowa, graduating from Charter Oak High
13 School in 1936, after which he enrolled in Willamette
14 University and subsequently enlisted in the U.S. Navy
15 at Salem, Oregon, on April 7, 1941, being commissioned
16 as a Second Lieutenant after flight school; and

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

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

30 WHEREAS, in 1955, Colonel Virgil D. Olson became

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1 the eighth Commanding Officer of HMX-1, the official
2 helicopter squadron for the President of the United
3 States of America, and was the sole individual
4 designated as a helicopter pilot for the President of
5 the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1959, Colonel Virgil D. Olson completed
7 the Senior Officers' Course at the Marine Corps School
8 at Quantico, and was named Air Boss and Commanding
9 Officer of the Marine detachment aboard the carrier
10 USS 1 Boxer; and

11 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson served at the
12 Pentagon in the Office of the Chief of Naval
13 Operations, became the Commanding Officer of NHTG-30,
14 served as Chief of Staff 3rd MAW in Da Nang, Vietnam,
15 and returned to Quantico as Chief of Staff, Marine
16 Corps Education and Development Command, before
17 retiring in July 1973; and

18 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson's decorations
19 include two Distinguished Flying Crosses, seven Air
20 Medals, the Legion of Merit with Combat V, and the
21 Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm; and

22 WHEREAS, Colonel Virgil D. Olson worked from 1956-
23 1959 to establish Marine One, the Presidential Marine
24 Helicopter Squadron and Program, flying Sikorsky
25 helicopters; and

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

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
29 congratulates retired Colonel Virgil D. Olson for his
30 lifetime of achievements and honors him for his many

1 decades of service to the United States of America.

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