

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION DRSJR55720-LG-772 (5/27)**

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Sponsors:    Senator Hunt.

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Referred to:

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1    A JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
2        SIGNING OF PUBLIC LAW 557, WHICH MADE THE CIVIL AIR PATROL  
3        THE OFFICIAL AUXILIARY OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, AND  
4        HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CHAPLAIN ROYCE A. BEACHAM,  
5        ONE OF THE FINEST MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL.

6            Whereas, during World War II, volunteer aviators of the Civil Air Patrol's  
7    (CAP) Coastal Patrol distinguished themselves valiantly, flying more than 24 million  
8    miles during 86,000 over-water missions — a total of 244,600 flight hours — to help  
9    win the battle against U-boats that were preying on coastal shipping; and

10            Whereas, CAP volunteers spotted 173 submarines, attacked 57, hit 10, and  
11    sank two; called in aid for 91 ships in distress; saved 363 survivors of submarine  
12    attacks; discovered 17 floating mines; and flew 5,684 special convoy missions; and

13            Whereas, inspired by the highest sense of patriotism and pride in their  
14    mission, 59 members of these courageous aircrews died, 26 were lost at sea, and seven  
15    others were seriously injured; and

16            Whereas, today CAP continues this tradition of service before self as one of  
17    the most unique volunteer organizations in America, consisting of everyday heroes —  
18    from pilots, teachers, and youth mentors to technology experts, communicators,  
19    chaplains, and more; and

20            Whereas, whether performing search and rescue missions or helping  
21    communities recover from floods, wildfires, tornadoes, or hurricanes, CAP members are  
22    there to aid their nation; and

23            Whereas, coming full circle from its beginnings in World War II, CAP is  
24    again performing homeland security missions, assisting the Air Force in ensuring the  
25    skies above our nation are safe by flying target-intercept training missions for United  
26    States military pilots; and

1           Whereas, former CAP member, Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Royce A.  
2 Beacham, could trace his family history back to the first flight of the Wright brothers at  
3 Kitty Hawk; and

4           Whereas, Chaplain Beacham could trace his personal history to the defending  
5 of the United States' coast during WWII, and could say that he was present for both the  
6 50<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Flight at Kitty Hawk; and

7           Whereas, Chaplain Beacham and his father, John L. Beacham, assisted others  
8 in setting up the first CAP Squadron in Manteo in 1941, and had served with CAP  
9 Squadrons in Greenville, South Carolina, Durham, North Carolina, and the  
10 Raleigh-Wake Composite Squadron of North Carolina, where he remained an active  
11 Chaplain for a number of years; and

12           Whereas, Chaplain Beacham never flaunted his special relationship with  
13 history and never thought of himself as being special because of it. He had a higher  
14 calling into the present and the future, based upon his relationship and calling from  
15 God; and

16           Whereas, Chaplain Beacham translated his calling into such willing and  
17 caring service to and for others. The service he rendered had a special measure of  
18 gentleness and tenderness, of care and concern for others; and

19           Whereas, Chaplain Beacham, during his many years of service to CAP, was  
20 honored by being named 1984 CAP National Chaplain of the Year, 1997 North Carolina  
21 Wing Chaplain of the Year, and 2004 Middle East Region Chaplain of the Year; and

22           Whereas, Chaplain Beacham obtained a Ground Team Rating and Mission  
23 Observer Wings in Emergency Services. He also received ribbons for Rescue Find, Air  
24 Search and Rescue, Disaster Relief, Senior Recruiting, and many Commander's  
25 Commendations; and

26           Whereas, Chaplain Beacham was laid to rest on Friday, March 14, 2008, in  
27 Raleigh, North Carolina, surrounded by his many CAP comrades; and

28           Whereas, CAP's Missions for America have impacted the lives of many  
29 citizens, as has the life of Chaplain Royce A. Beacham; Now, therefore,  
30 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

31           **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly extends its greatest appreciation to the  
32 Civil Air Patrol, which became the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force with  
33 the signing of Public Law 577 on May 26, 1948.

34           **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly expresses its deepest sympathy and  
35 heartfelt respect to the family of Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Royce A. Beacham.

36           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
37 resolution to the family of Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Royce A. Beacham.

38           **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.