

1 SJR137
2 193082-1
3 By Senator Whatley
4 RFD:
5 First Read: 21-MAR-18

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8 COMMENDING COLONEL WILLIAM R. BASS FOR EXTRAORDINARY
9 SERVICE TO THE CIVIL AIR PATROL.

10
11 WHEREAS, we take great pride and pleasure in
12 commending Colonel William R. Bass for extraordinary service
13 to the Civil Air Patrol; and

14 WHEREAS, Colonel William R. Bass embarked on his
15 distinguished service with the Civil Air Patrol in July 1949
16 as a member of the Sarasota-Bradenton Cadet Squadron; upon
17 completing the cadet program, he earned the Certificate of
18 Proficiency with all options and served as cadet commander
19 until his transfer to Michigan Wing; he was instrumental in
20 organizing the Allegan Composite Squadron, was promoted to
21 C/Major, and served as cadet commander until his return to
22 Florida in 1953; he joined the Bradenton Cadet Squadron as a
23 senior member and assisted with the cadet program, before
24 returning to Michigan and resuming his assistance with the
25 Allegan Squadron in late 1955; and

26 WHEREAS, while maintaining membership with CAP, he
27 served as a naval reservist for eight years, volunteered for

1 active duty in 1956, and served for three years, two of those
2 years aboard a guided missile cruiser; after his release from
3 active duty, he returned to Florida and joined the Canaveral
4 Composite Squadron and assumed responsibility for the cadet
5 program; he was a member of the range operations group,
6 serving first as an Instrumentation Operations Coordinator and
7 later as a Test Operations Controller; he worked his way
8 through commercial and military operations to become a member
9 of the elite six-man launch command team for the Apollo
10 Program; he later managed 35-plus engineers at Kennedy Space
11 Center who devised the plans and schedules for the world-wide
12 conversion of the Saturn Program to the Shuttle Program; and

13 WHEREAS, the Canaveral Squadron was recognized as
14 one of the top performing units in Florida Wing, and William
15 R. Bass was asked to become the Group Six Director of Cadets,
16 a position he held until becoming Deputy for Cadets, Florida
17 Wing; he had the distinction of developing the wing's first
18 Cadet Command and Staff School and serving as its commander;
19 he mentored some of the nation's first Spaatz cadets while
20 simultaneously earning the Senior Certificate of Proficiency,
21 the highest senior training award at the time; and

22 WHEREAS, his extensive record of excellence includes
23 serving as a Senior Escort Officer for the Jet Orientation
24 Course at Perrin Air Force Base, the FAA Orientation Course in
25 Oklahoma City, and the Space Age Orientation Course at Chanute
26 Air Force Base, hosting three International Air Cadet
27 Exchanges, and several groups from other wings, including the

1 Middle East Region Girls Exchange, serving as Commander,
2 Sector B, Vice Commander, Commander, Florida Wing, becoming
3 active in counterdrug operations at Alabama Wing and directing
4 its program, being selected as Counterdrug Officer of the Year
5 for the Southeast Region in 2009 and being selected CDO of the
6 Year for Alabama Wing in 2010, assuming command of Alabama
7 Wing, and serving as Vice Commander and Wing Director of
8 Operations at Alabama Wing; and

9 WHEREAS, among his many awards and honors, he earned
10 24 ribbon awards with numerous bronze and silver clasps; among
11 them are the Distinguished Service Medal, Exceptional Service
12 (2), Meritorious Service (3), National Commander's Citation
13 (2), Unit Citation (16+), Commander's Commendation (3), and
14 many others; he was selected as Alabama Wing's Senior Member
15 of the Year for 2013 and as Southeast Region Senior Member of
16 the Year for 2013, was inducted into Alabama Wing's Hall of
17 Honor as a Legacy Member at the 2015 Alabama Wing Conference,
18 was dubbed a "green tab" officer and awarded the U.S. Army's
19 Volunteer Service Medal by Colonel Jason Altieri, Commander,
20 110th Aviation Brigade, Fort Rucker and Vice Chairman of Civil
21 Air Patrol's Board of Governors, and was awarded the Frank G,
22 Brewer Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2017 Alabama Wing
23 Conference; he is a 50-year member of CAP, Life Member of the
24 American Radio Relay League (W4LFC), and Benefactor Life
25 Member of NRA; and

26 WHEREAS, for nearly seven decades, he has earned
27 widespread respect for the commitment and capability he

1 brought to every challenge while compiling an outstanding
2 record of leadership; now therefore,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
4 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That Lieutenant Colonel Johnny Ward
5 is commended for extraordinary service to the Civil Air
6 Patrol, and this resolution is offered in highest tribute and
7 deepest appreciation on behalf of the citizens of the State of
8 Alabama.