

By: Representatives Crawford, L. Johnson, Gramlich, Rose, J. Richardson

By: Senator J. Boyd

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD CHAFFIN FOR
HIS DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES MADE ON BEHALF OF THE
UNITED STATES.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD
CHAFFIN FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES
MADE ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Harold Chaffin was born on November 28, 1913, in Sebastian County; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Harold Chaffin entered the United States Army Air Forces to serve during World War II and completed flight school at Kelly Field in Texas; and

WHEREAS, during the World War II, Lt. Col. Chaffin flew a B-17 Flying Fortress, becoming one (1) of twelve (12) men flying their B-17s into Oahu during the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, during the attack, he could not manage a landing at an extremely damaged Hickam Field, going on to land his B-17 at Haleiwa Airfield, an airfield meant only for fighter planes; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary landing merited being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross that Gen. Douglas MacArthur bestowed upon Lt. Col. Chaffin and one (1) other pilot; and



WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Chaffin continued to serve the United States in the war, helping to evacuate MacArthur from the Philippines and he was later deployed to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in March 1943; and

WHEREAS, On March 26, 1943, Lt. Col. Chaffin was co-pilot of the B-17 Flying Fortress #41-24384, "Pluto" and also on board as pilot, was the Commanding General of V Bomber Command, Brigadier General Howard K. Ramey. The mission of the aircraft that day was to carry out a scheduled 7-hour reconnaissance flight of Merauke and Horn Island; and

WHEREAS, the last communication ever heard from the aircraft was a message from the radio operator twenty (20) minutes after takeoff and an extensive air search was conducted but no sign was ever found of the aircraft, or the twelve (12) men on board; and

WHEREAS, all persons on board the aircraft were officially declared dead on November 19, 1945; and

WHEREAS, everyone on the flight was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart after officially being declared Killed in Action on November 19, 1945; and

WHEREAS, March 26, 2023 will be the eightieth (80th) anniversary of the disappearance of Lt. Col. Chaffin and it is important to honor the memory of one (1) of many who served in World War II,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring, recognize Lt. Col. Harold Chaffin for his dedication and sacrifices on behalf of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Lt. Col. Chaffin by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.