

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2161

Sponsors: Senators Hunt; Blake, Brock, East, and Tillman.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

June 3, 2008

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

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

1 Whereas, Chaplain Beacham could trace his personal history to the defending
2 of the United States' coast during WWII, and could say that he was present for both the
3 50th and 100th Anniversary of the First Flight at Kitty Hawk; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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