

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE *[insert number of years here, i.e., 76, 77, 78]*TH ANNIVERSARY OF CIVIL AIR PATROL

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol was founded 1 December 1941 by a fledgling group of volunteers led by civilian pilots who flew their own planes at their own expense to support America's efforts in World War II, primarily by flying reconnaissance missions near the country's coasts to protect cargo ships, especially vital oil tankers, being sunk at an alarming rate that, according to U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Marshal, "now threaten our entire war effort." And

WHEREAS, so many subs were spotted by these "subchasers" that a decision was soon made by the military to arm their light aircraft with small bombs and their larger aircraft with 325-pound depth bombs, putting these brave civilians at great risk because they were often flying 100 miles or more from shore in all kinds of weather. And

WHEREAS, over the next year and a half, these subchasers played an integral role in the defense of America's homefront during World War II, spotting 143 German submarines, attacking 57 while directing shore-based fighting units to their targets and forcing the enemy to move further offshore. And

WHEREAS, the wartime effort, which included border patrol operations, search and rescue, disaster relief, forest fire patrol, emergency transportation of personnel and critical cargo and towing practice targets for the U.S. military, also resulted in the loss of 26 coastal patrol members and 90 aircraft in the war's beginning stages and 66 deaths and 150 lost aircraft by war's end. And

WHEREAS, as the Coastal Patrol was heralded as a great success, prompting President Harry Truman to sign Public Law 476 in 1946, which chartered CAP as a benevolent, nonprofit organization, and nearly two years later, in 1948 the Congress of the United State passed Public Law 557, permanently establishing CAP as the auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force with the three primary missions of Emergency Services, Cadet Programs and Aerospace Education. And

WHEREAS, since that auspicious beginning, a modern-day Civil Air Patrol has emerged to become one of the nation's premier humanitarian service organizations, saving lives, finding those who are lost, helping fellow citizens in times of disaster, working to keep America safe, preparing future leaders, offering aerospace education to inspire our nation's youth and honoring our military. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol, forged by a late-century revolution in search and rescue technology, became known worldwide for its unique emergency services operations, performing vital search and rescue, disaster relief and other important emergency missions for what now numbers more than 1,400 communities across America and the 50 states, as well as the nation's capital, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol, supported by the world's largest fleet of single-engine aircraft equipped with high-tech tools like full-motion video, infrared cameras and glass cockpit instrumentation, has established itself among the nation's search and rescue elite, now participating in up to 90 percent of the Air Force's inland search and rescue missions. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol has more than 8,000 air crew members and 30,000 emergency responders trained to Federal Emergency Management Agency standards, who each year contribute over \$165 million in man-hours by serving the disaster relief and emergency service needs of communities, states and the U.S. and saving an average of 80 lives annually. And

WHEREAS, as a top resource for disaster relief, Civil Air Patrol is often first on the scene, providing aerial photography and damage assessment to help emergency officials pinpoint critical infrastructure needs in real time as well as ground team support, often providing door-to-door services, which includes water, food and supply delivery, even laundry services, for victims. And

WHEREAS, recent high-visibility Civil Air Patrol missions have included responses to tornadoes that ravaged communities across America; forest fires in numerous states; Hawaiian and Pacific Coast tsunamis; hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, as well as Harvey, Irma and Maria; wildfires in the Southwest and in California; Midwest flooding; September 11 terrorist attacks; and counterdrug missions across the nation that have helped remove over \$1 billion in illegal drugs from our communities. And

WHEREAS, the aircraft of Civil Air Patrol were the only nonmilitary planes allowed in the skies over the U.S. in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks in 2001, and CAP has since performed admirably in other homeland security missions, including responding to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a 118-day continuous effort, by taking tens of thousands of aerial photographs necessary for assessing environment damage, deploying containment assets and successfully working side-by-side with numerous state and federal agencies all the while saving the federal government an estimated \$22 million to \$38 million for these services. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol sets the world standard for volunteer aviation emergency services, prompting other nations like Denmark and the United Kingdom to use the CAP model to establish or improve their own similar volunteer programs. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol's youth program currently includes 25,000 cadets who benefit from a curriculum that trains them to be leaders; offers them opportunities for flight, including pilot training; and teaches emergency services techniques, including lifesaving. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol reaches tens of thousands of the country's school-age children and their teachers, regardless of their membership in Civil Air Patrol, with a comprehensive selection of academic programs that stress the STEM subjects of science, technology, engineering and math, in addition to programs that encourage a drug-free lifestyle. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol's membership includes more than 475 chaplains who fulfill critical needs for deployed U.S. military chaplains and provide counseling services for soldiers and their families, as well as disaster victims. And

WHEREAS, in its partnership with Wreaths Across America, Civil Air Patrol annually honors military veterans by helping sponsor and place tens of thousands of wreaths at the graves of fallen soldiers at U.S. cemeteries nationwide and overseas. And

WHEREAS, Civil Air Patrol is celebrating *[insert number]* years of performing these "Missions for America."

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by this legislative body of the *[State (or Territory)]* of *[State (or Territory)]*, hereby:

- 1) honors the men and women who have served and those who continue to serve their fellow citizens through Civil Air Patrol, a noble and patriotic organization;
- 2) names 1 December *[insert the year here]* as Civil Air Patrol Day throughout the *[State (or Territory)]* of *[State (or Territory)]*; and,
- 3) transmits a duly authorized and signed copy of this resolution to Colonel *[Full name of receiving wing commander]*, Commander of the *[State (or Territory)]* Wing, Civil Air Patrol.

[PERSON SIGNING WILL INSERT STANDARD SIGNATURE BLOCK AND SEAL HERE]