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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 241 Session of  
2003

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INTRODUCED BY LEH, MARKOSEK, ARGALL, CALTAGIRONE, S. MILLER,  
ROHRER, SANTONI, SEMMEL, ARMSTRONG, BAKER, BASTIAN, BEBKO-  
JONES, CAPPELLI, CAWLEY, COLEMAN, CORRIGAN, COY, CRUZ, DALLY,  
DeWEESE, EGOLF, D. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FEESE,  
FICHTER, FLEAGLE, GEIST, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HARHART,  
HARPER, HERMAN, HERSHEY, HESS, HORSEY, HUTCHINSON, JAMES,  
KELLER, LAUGHLIN, MAITLAND, NAILOR, PAYNE, PHILLIPS,  
PISTELLA, ROBERTS, SHANER, R. STEVENSON, TIGUE, WALKO,  
WASHINGTON, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD, REICHLEY AND BUNT,  
APRIL 29, 2003

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
APRIL 29, 2003

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## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Memorializing the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the  
2 United States Postal Service to recommend to the United  
3 States Postal Service Board of Governors the issuance of a  
4 commemorative stamp honoring the military career and  
5 contributions to military aviation of General Carl A. Spaatz.

6 WHEREAS, Born on June 28, 1891, in Boyertown, Pennsylvania,  
7 Carl A. Spatz (he added an "a" in 1937), attended Perkiomen  
8 Seminary, graduated from the United States Military Academy at  
9 West Point, New York, in 1914 along with Dwight D. Eisenhower  
10 and was commissioned in the infantry; and

11 WHEREAS, Following a year at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii,  
12 Spaatz entered aviation training in San Diego, California, and  
13 by 1916 he became one of the Army's first pilots and was  
14 promoted to lieutenant; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1917 Spaatz advanced to the rank of major,

1 married Ruth Harrison and was ordered to France to command the  
2 3d Aviation Instruction Center, Issoudon, France, turning that  
3 aviation training school into the largest training field in the  
4 world; and

5 WHEREAS, By the end of the war Spaatz managed to get two  
6 weeks' of combat duty with the 2d Pursuit Group, shooting down  
7 three German aircraft, and was awarded the Distinguished Service  
8 Cross, finishing World War I as a recognized expert in training  
9 and pursuit aviation; and

10 WHEREAS, From 1920 to 1935 Spaatz served in various command  
11 positions at several Army bases throughout the United States;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Spaatz, with Captain Ira C. Eaker, in January 1929  
14 established a flight endurance record of 150 hours and 40  
15 minutes in a Fokker aircraft, the Question Mark, over Los  
16 Angeles, California, logging 11,000 miles while pioneering air-  
17 to-air refueling; and

18 WHEREAS, After two years in the office of the chief of the  
19 Air Corps, Spaatz was promoted to lieutenant colonel in  
20 September 1935, and he entered the Command and General staff  
21 school, Leavenworth, Kansas, graduating in 1936 and served as  
22 executive officer of the 2d Wing at Langley Field, Virginia,  
23 until November 1938 when he rejoined the staff of the Air Corps  
24 chief as head of the Air Corps plans section; and

25 WHEREAS, In July 1941 Spaatz was appointed first chief of the  
26 Air Staff of the Army Air Forces, becoming commander of the  
27 Eighth Air Force and then commander of the United States Army  
28 Air Forces in Europe, where he reorganized the Allied air forces  
29 in North Africa and served as commander of the Allied Northwest  
30 African Air Forces (NWAAF), commander of the Twelfth Air Force

1 of the NWAAF and commander of the Strategic Air Force; and

2 WHEREAS, While commander of the Eighth Air Force, Spaatz  
3 developed the strategic air attack against Germany and had a  
4 principal role in planning the D-Day invasion of France; and

5 WHEREAS, A controversy erupted over the destruction of the  
6 French and Belgian rail network to constrain German logistics  
7 and slow reinforcements versus the destruction of the German  
8 synthetic oil industry, with General Eisenhower initially  
9 choosing the rail attack but later being persuaded by General  
10 Spaatz to make the destruction of the synthetic oil industry the  
11 top priority, a decision that would prove decisive for the  
12 Allies and hasten the end of World War II; and

13 WHEREAS, By March 1945 the war in Europe had ended and  
14 General Spaatz had become the commanding general of the  
15 Strategic Air Force in the Pacific and with the authorization of  
16 President Harry S. Truman and the Army Chief of Staff ordered  
17 the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; and

18 WHEREAS, General Spaatz was the only American general to  
19 attend all three major ceremonies ending World War II; and

20 WHEREAS, In March 1946 General Spaatz became commander in  
21 chief of the Army Air Forces and successfully led the fight to  
22 separate the Army Air Forces from the Army, which was  
23 accomplished when President Harry S. Truman signed the National  
24 Security Act of 1947; and

25 WHEREAS, General Spaatz became the first chief of staff of  
26 the independent Air Force (USAF) in September 1947, a post he  
27 held until his retirement in 1948; and

28 WHEREAS, General Spaatz served as chairman of the Civil Air  
29 Patrol and contributed a column to Newsweek; and

30 WHEREAS, General Spaatz died on July 14, 1974, at the age of

1 83 and was interred on the grounds of the United States Air  
2 Force Academy, whose site he helped to select, and was inducted  
3 into the International Aerospace Hall of Fame in 1977; therefore  
4 be it

5       RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
6 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania memorialize the Citizens'  
7 Stamp Advisory Committee of the United States Postal Service  
8 Board of Governors to issue a commemorative stamp honoring  
9 General Carl A. Spaatz's outstanding military career and his  
10 contributions to military aviation; and be it further

11       RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be delivered to the  
12 Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development,  
13 United States Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Room 5670,  
14 Washington, DC 20260-2437, to the presiding officers of each  
15 house of Congress and to each member of Congress from  
16 Pennsylvania.