
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 262 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY LEH, BEBKO-JONES, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CLYMER,
CORRIGAN, DENLINGER, DeWEESE, FABRIZIO, FLEAGLE, GEIST,
GEORGE, GRUCELA, HERSHEY, HESS, JAMES, MARSICO, S. MILLER,
SAYLOR, SHANER, R. STEVENSON, THOMAS, TIGUE, WOJNAROSKI AND
YOUNGBLOOD, APRIL 28, 2005

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 28, 2005

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,
16 married Ruth Harrison and was ordered to France to command the
17 3d Aviation Instruction Center, Issoudon, France, turning that

1 aviation training school into the largest training field in the
2 world; and

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

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

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, While commander of the Eighth Air Force, Spaatz

1 developed the strategic air attack against Germany and had a
2 principal role in planning the D-Day invasion of France; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 WHEREAS, General Spaatz died on July 14, 1974, at the age of
29 83 and was interred on the grounds of the United States Air
30 Force Academy, whose site he helped to select, and was inducted

1 into the International Aerospace Hall of Fame in 1977; therefore
2 be it

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

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