
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 448 Session of
2011

INTRODUCED BY CREIGHTON AND CAUSER, OCTOBER 12, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER
12, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life of United States Air Force Major Thomas Edward
2 Clark, who was killed in action on February 8, 1969, during a
3 Vietnam combat mission over Laos.

4 WHEREAS, Thomas Edward Clark was born on April 15, 1939, in
5 Emporium, to Josephine and Otto Clark and graduated from the
6 United States Air Force Academy in 1963; and

7 WHEREAS, On February 8, 1969, as a captain in the United
8 States Air Force, Thomas Clark was flying an F-100D aircraft of
9 the 416th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 37th Tactical Fight Wing,
10 out of Phu Cat Air Base, Vietnam, along with three other
11 aircraft on a combat mission over Laos; and

12 WHEREAS, The flight, controlled by an F-4 Forward Air
13 Controller, engaged a 23 millimeter anti-aircraft artillery
14 (AAA) battery in the vicinity of grid coordinates 48Q XD 177
15 598; and

16 WHEREAS, Captain Clark's aircraft was hit by rounds from the
17 AAA battery, burst into flames and crashed; and

18 WHEREAS, No parachute was observed and aircraft in the area

1 conducted visual and electronic searches with negative results;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Approximately one hour after the crash, a voice
4 transmission, reportedly Asian, was received on an emergency
5 frequency but no evidence suggested that this transmission was
6 related to Captain Clark's loss nor was the location of the
7 transmission's origin discernible; and

8 WHEREAS, Subsequently, the United States Air Force determined
9 that Captain Clark was killed in action (KIA), unrecovered (BNR)
10 and posthumously promoted him to the rank of major; and

11 WHEREAS, On February 12, 1991, a joint United States and Lao
12 People's Democratic Republic team investigated the crash of
13 Major Clark's F-100D; and

14 WHEREAS, In late 1991, a Thai citizen turned over human
15 remains and a military identification tag bearing Captain
16 Clark's name to United States officials in Thailand, but the
17 human remains were determined to not be those of Major Clark;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Excavations of the crash site in 1992 and 2005 were
20 unsuccessful in recovering Major Clark's remains; and

21 WHEREAS, From October 14 to 20, 2009, another joint team
22 excavation recovered a human tooth which, after extensive
23 examination, was identified as belonging to Major Clark; and

24 WHEREAS, The Clark family was notified in June 2011 that the
25 remains of Major Clark would be returned to his family, and
26 arrangements have been made to bury the remains in Emporium on
27 October 22, 2011, in the family plot with his father and mother;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, The investigative efforts of the joint excavation
30 teams testify poignantly to the heroic service given to this

1 nation by this courageous flyer during the Vietnam Conflict and
2 to this Commonwealth's duty to honor his life in death;
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor the life of
5 United States Air Force Major Thomas Edward Clark, who was
6 killed in action on February 8, 1969, during a Vietnam combat
7 mission over Laos.