

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1017

By Reeves

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel
Steve Fitzhugh, United States Air Force (retired),
of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Fitzhugh, United States Air Force (retired), left
this world for a far better existence on August 5, 2009, after a long and fruitful life; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh was a pioneer in aviation who contributed significantly to
the development of the field as a military pilot, United States Air Force officer, and civilian airport
administrator; and

WHEREAS, as a pilot, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh helped develop and refine modern-day military
wartime air deployment of troops and equipment at historic Sewart Air Force Base in the 1940s
and 1950s; and

WHEREAS, he also influenced world history as a pilot who flew The Hump in
transporting wartime relief supplies into China; and

WHEREAS, a veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh served as
the last commandant of Sewart Air Force Base, which was closed in 1971; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from military duty, he returned to civilian life and served as the
acting director of Nashville International Airport; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh was instrumental in the successful effort to transfer the
administration of the former Sewart Air Force Base to the newly formed Smyrna/Rutherford
County Airport Authority in 1991; and

WHEREAS, a visionary leader who saw the potential for Sewart to become a major hub
of aviation-related economic activity, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh served as the first civilian executive
director of present-day Smyrna Airport and made innumerable contributions to its development,
growth, and popularity among the public; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh was one of the pioneers who encouraged the Donelson/Hermitage Rotary Club to launch Tennessee Aviation Days, now known as Wings of Freedom Aviation Days, which event helped showcase Smyrna Airport to air-travel enthusiasts and pilots from around the nation and the globe; and

WHEREAS, he was a Rotarian and a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, deeply devoted to his family, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh was the father of two and had eleven grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren at the time of his passing; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Fitzhugh demonstrated integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional aviator and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Steve Fitzhugh, United States Air Force (retired), reflecting fondly upon his legacy as a pioneer and major contributor to aviation as a pilot, military officer, civilian administrator, and public servant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.