



H.Res. 604 – Expressing the nation's sincerest appreciation and thanks for the service of the members of the 303rd Bombardment Group (Heavy) upon the occasion of the final reunion of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association

Floor Situation

H.Res. 604 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI) on August 1, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, but was never considered.

H.Res. 604 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on September 18, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 604 honors the dedicated men and women who served in the 8th Air Force, 303rd Bombardment Group (H). Nicknamed the “Hell's Angels”, these brave men and women including nearly 5,000 listed as missing in action, (during World War II) are heroes and champions of American freedom.

The House of Representatives, on behalf of a grateful nation, recognizes the final reunion of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association and commends the honorable members of the Association, who never once turned away from their assigned target, for their selfless service to our country.

Background

The 303rd Bombardment Group (H), also known as “Hell's Angels”, was activated on September 12, 1942, during World War II. They flew their first combat mission on November 17, 1942, and the last mission on April 25, 1945.

The “Hell's Angels” were the first group to successfully complete 25 combat missions on May 13, 1943, 6 days prior to the “Memphis Belle's” same accomplishment. They flew a total of 364 combat missions against enemy targets, the most of any B-17 Bomb Group in the 8th Air Force during World War II.

The group was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, four members were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, 33 were awarded the Silver Star, and approximately 1,200 Purple Hearts were awarded for those killed or wounded in action.

The veterans of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association memorialize and perpetuate the memory of 303rd Bombardment Group (H) comrades lost during World War II, and those who have since passed away, by having a reunion once every year .

Due to age and the declining health of the 303rd Bombardment Group (H) veterans, the 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to dissolve the Association at the end of 2007.

The final reunion will be held in Washington, DC, on September 19, 2007 through September 23, 2007.

Cost

At the time of printing the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not scored this legislation.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Luke Hatzis at (202) 226-2302.