

**Enrolled**  
**House Concurrent Resolution 4**

Sponsored by Representative MATTHEWS; Representatives CLEM, FREDERICK, HOYLE, KENY-GUYER, WITT, Senators MONNES ANDERSON, ROBLAN (Presession filed.)

Whereas Neil Swarthout was born on March 14, 1922, in Neenah, Wisconsin, and moved with his family to St. Helens, Oregon, in 1928; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout enlisted in the United States Navy in March 1942, enrolling shortly thereafter in the Naval Aviation Cadet Program to become a pilot; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout completed flight training all over the country, receiving his Golden Wings in November 1943 and being commissioned as an ensign; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout was trained as a dive bomber in the Douglas SBD Dauntless aircraft and, in 1944, was sent to Air Group 6 in Santa Rosa, California, and issued the Curtiss SB2C Helldiver, an aircraft known to be difficult to handle and used for dive bombing raids; and

Whereas with his squadron aboard the U.S.S. Hancock, Neil Swarthout carried out numerous attacks on various Japanese targets; and

Whereas after the U.S.S. Franklin lay dead in the water within 50 miles of the Japanese coastline following an attack by a suicide bomber, Neil Swarthout pursued a Japanese Mitsubishi G4M bomber making a run at the disabled ship, following the plane through flames and debris to sea and ensuring that it was out of action, a heroic act for which he was awarded his first Air Medal; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout was awarded the Navy Cross for scoring a direct hit on a battleship while carrying out a strike on a Japanese naval station; and

Whereas on September 2, 1945, as the Japanese signed their formal surrender aboard the U.S.S. Missouri in Tokyo Bay, Neil Swarthout's squadron was among the nearly 300 planes circling above the U.S.S. Missouri as a show of force to the Japanese Imperial Navy; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout was recalled to active duty during the Korean War and assigned to a ferry squadron, with which he flew many different aircraft; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout continued to be a "weekend warrior" with the United States Navy Reserve until 1962, and officially retired from the United States Navy on March 14, 1982, with the rank of Lieutenant Commander; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout married Merilee, a fellow student at Oregon State College, on December 27, 1946, and together they raised two adopted children; and

Whereas Neil Swarthout's humble demeanor belies his accomplishments as a highly decorated Navy pilot with five Air Medals and the prestigious Navy Cross to his name; now, therefore,

**Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

That we, the members of the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly, honor Neil Swarthout for his illustrious career as a United States Navy pilot and commend him for his valor and accomplishments.

Adopted by House February 27, 2013

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Ramona J. Line, Chief Clerk of House

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Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate April 9, 2013

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Peter Courtney, President of Senate