

House Concurrent Resolution 4

Sponsored by Representative MATTHEWS; Representatives CLEM, FREDERICK, HOYLE, KENY-GUYER, WITT, Senator ROBLAN (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Honors Neil Swarthout for heroic acts as United States Navy pilot.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Neil Swarthout was born on March 14, 1922, in Neenah, Wisconsin, and moved with
3 his family to St. Helens, Oregon, in 1928; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

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

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

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