

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2001-4650, by Representatives Ballard, Chopp, Ahern, Alexander, Anderson, Armstrong, Ballasiotes, Barlean, Benson, Berkey, Boldt, Buck, Bush, Cairnes, Campbell, Carrell, Casada, B. Chandler, G. Chandler, Clements, Cody, Conway, Cooper, Cox, Crouse, Darneille, DeBolt, Delvin, Dickerson, Doumit, Dunn, Dunshee, Edmonds, Edwards, Eickmeyer, Ericksen, Esser, Fisher, Fromhold, Gombosky, Grant, Haigh, Hankins, Hatfield, Hunt, Hurst, Jackley, Jarrett, Kagi, Keiser, Kenney, Kessler, Kirby, Lambert, Lantz, Linville, Lisk, Lovick, Marine, Mastin, McDermott, McIntire, McMorris, Mielke, Miloscia, Mitchell, Morell, Morris, Mulliken, Murray, O'Brien, Ogden, Pearson, Pennington, Pflug, Poulsen, Quall, Reardon, Roach, Rockefeller, Romero, Ruderman, Santos, Schindler, D. Schmidt, Schoesler, Schual-Berke, Sehlin, Simpson, Skinner, H. Sommers, Sump, Talcott, Tokuda, Van Luven, Veloria, Wood and Woods

WHEREAS, The citizens of Washington are proud of the noble men and women from Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Oak Harbor, who risk their lives daily to protect our nation so that we may live in peace and freedom; and

WHEREAS, The Washington State House of Representatives recognizes the committed leadership displayed by Lt. Shane Osborn, the pilot who followed time-honored emergency procedures and landed the crippled United States Navy EP-3 electronic reconnaissance aircraft safely on Hainan Island, China; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives joins a grateful nation in recognizing and honoring the following service men and women for their professionalism and courage during their eleven days of captivity in China:

Lieutenant Shane Osborn
Ensign Richard Bensing
Aviation Electricians Mate 3rd Class Steven Blocher
Cryptologic Technician Seaman Bradford Borland
Aviation Electricians Technician 2nd Class David Cecka
Lieutenant John Comerford
Cryptologic Technician Operator 1st Class Shawn Coursen
Cryptologic Technician Collection Seaman Jeremy Crandall
Cryptologic Technician Interpretive 1st Class Josef Edmunds
Cryptologic Technician Interpretive 2nd Class Brandon Funk
Aviation Electricians Technician 2nd Class Scott Guidry
Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Jason Hanser
Lieutenant Patrick Honeck
Lieutenant Regina Kauffman
Aviation Machinist's Mate Senior Chief Nicholas Mellos
Aviation Electricians Technician 2nd Class Ramon Mercado
Lieutenant Richard Payne
Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Kenneth Richter
Lieutenant Marcia Sonon
Lieutenant Jeffrey Vignery
Aviation Machinist 2nd Class Wendy Westrook
Cryptologic Technician 3rd Class Rodney Young
Sergeant Richard Pray
Senior Airman Curtis Towne

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives honors all soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and guardsmen of Washington who dedicate their lives to protecting our freedom; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives also recognizes and honors the families who provide constant and unconditional support for our dedicated military professionals; and

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives also expresses its gratitude to the entire community of Oak Harbor for providing comfort and encouragement to the families of the detained crew members while they were awaiting the safe return of their loved ones;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives commend and honor the twenty-four men and women who performed their recent mission with distinction and nobility, wish all the crewmembers a joyous homecoming celebration, and offer appreciation to their gallant families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Co-Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives to President George W. Bush, Captain Larry Salter, Commanding Officer Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Captain William Marriott, Commanding Officer Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron ONE, and Whidbey Naval Air Station Public Affairs Office.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of
Resolution 4650 adopted by the House of Representatives
April 13 2001.

Timothy A. Martin, Co-Chief Clerk

Cynthia Zehnder, Co-Chief Clerk