

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 331

Recognizing Igor I. Sikorsky, a national aviation pioneer.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2003

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. SHAYS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

RESOLUTION

Recognizing Igor I. Sikorsky, a national aviation pioneer.

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky was born in Kiev, Russia, on May 25, 1889;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky flew the world's first successful 4-engine aircraft, known as "The Grand", in 1912, and repeatedly set the world flight-time record for a 4-engine plane;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky left Russia after the Russian Revolution and arrived in the United States in 1919;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky became a United States Citizen and eventually adopted Connecticut as his home and the home of his business, which has employed thousands of Americans over the last 80 years;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky began his first American aviation venture, Sikorsky Aero Engineering Company, in 1923, with a meager budget and the support of a few students and friends;

Whereas this company grew into Sikorsky Aircraft, currently the world leader in the design and manufacture of advanced helicopters for commercial, industrial, and military uses;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky is known as the “Father” of the modern Helicopter for his success and innovation, as well as for the decades of achievement of the Sikorsky Aircraft Company;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky designed and built the first successful single main-rotor helicopter, the VS-300, which flew for the first time on September 14, 1939;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky designed and built the Nation’s first military helicopter, the XR-4, in 1942;

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky built the first mass-produced helicopter, the R-4, in 1943;

Whereas the awards and accolades accorded to Mr. Sikorsky are far too many to list, but include the National Medal of Science, the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, the United States Air Force Academy’s Thomas D. White National Defense Award, and enshrinement in the Aviation and International Aerospace Halls of Fame; and

Whereas Igor I. Sikorsky’s life was a resounding affirmation of his famous saying, “the work of the individual still remains the spark that moves mankind ahead”: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) honors Igor I. Sikorsky as a national avia-
2 tion pioneer;

3 (2) recognizes Igor I. Sikorsky's vision, deter-
4 mination, and immeasurable contribution to the
5 town of Stratford, the State of Connecticut, the
6 United States of America, and the global commu-
7 nity; and

8 (3) recognizes the legacy left by Igor I. Sikor-
9 sky, reflected in the ongoing contributions of the Si-
10 korsky Aircraft Company to the Nation's aviation
11 economy and strong national defense.

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