

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1726

Honoring the service and accomplishments of Kingston Smith, Republican Staff Director and Chief Counsel for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2010

Mr. BUYER (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Honoring the service and accomplishments of Kingston Smith, Republican Staff Director and Chief Counsel for the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Whereas Kingston Smith graduated from Duke University in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in arts;

Whereas Kingston Smith attended United States Air Force Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on December 20, 1968;

Whereas Kingston Smith earned his Air Force pilot's wings in 1969 and served in the Republic of Vietnam as a special operations EC-47 pilot and later flew C-141 aircraft, and also served as a nuclear weapons courier;

Whereas Kingston Smith was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and bravery as an EC-47 pilot during the Vietnam War, he flew an extremely hazardous mission through adverse weather conditions and through constant hostile ground fire and attack. Due to his professional competence, aerial skills and devotion to duty, the classified mission was a success;

Whereas Kingston Smith is the recipient of numerous other military awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor "V" device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon;

Whereas Kingston Smith graduated from the University of Richmond in 1977 with a Juris Doctor degree;

Whereas Kingston Smith served in the Air Force Reserve until 1997 as a JAG officer, and on the Air Staff at the Pentagon, and practiced law in Richmond, Virginia, with a firm specializing in civil litigation;

Whereas Kingston Smith joined the staff of the General Counsel Office of the Veterans Administration in 1980, and was a senior advisor on veterans policy for the Bush presidential campaigns in 1988 and 1992, as well as for the Dole presidential campaign in 1996;

Whereas Kingston Smith joined the staff of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs in 1984, was named Chief Counsel for the Committee in 1985, and was appointed as the Republican Staff Director and Chief Counsel by the Ranking Republican Member, the Honorable Steve Buyer in 2008;

Whereas Kingston Smith faithfully served five different Committee leaders throughout his tenure including Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt, Gerry Solomon, Bob Stump, Chris Smith and Steve Buyer, as well as countless other members who understand and strive to fulfill the obligations our country owes to its veterans;

Whereas Kingston Smith was a key contributor in the drafting of landmark pieces of legislation such as bills creating the Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and improving the Service Members Civil Relief Act; and

Whereas over a multifaceted career of distinguished public service dedicated to the preservation of the principles upon which our Nation was founded, from his Air Force days in Vietnam to the halls of Congress, in his every step, Kingston Smith has embodied excellence in service to country and to his fellow citizens: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) honors Kingston Smith for his service of
- 3 over 26 years on the occasion of his retirement from
- 4 the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs;

1 (2) commends Kingston Smith for his dedica-
2 tion and commitment to serving his fellow veterans;
3 and

4 (3) recognizes the tremendous dedication and
5 fortitude with which Kingston Smith has led an ex-
6emplary career in public service, having balanced his
7 time in the Air Force Reserve with the demanding
8 duties of his roles as husband and father, with con-
9 summate professionalism and boundless devotion to
10 each throughout his distinguished service to our Na-
11 tion.