

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 407

Honoring former Senator and Rear Admiral Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 31, 2014

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. REID, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

RESOLUTION

Honoring former Senator and Rear Admiral Jeremiah
Andrew Denton, Jr.

Whereas Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr. (referred to in this preamble as “Senator Denton”) was born in Mobile, Alabama, on July 15, 1924, and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946;

Whereas Senator Denton married Kathryn Jane Maury in 1946 and had 7 children with her before she passed away in 2007;

Whereas Senator Denton is survived by his second wife, Mary Belle Bordone, and his children, Jeremiah A. Denton III, William C. Denton, Donald A. Denton, James S. Denton, Michael C. Denton, Madeleine D. Doak, and Mary D. Lewis;

Whereas Senator Denton had a distinguished military career as a Naval Aviator—

(1) receiving credit in 1957 as the architect of the “Haystack Concept”, which revolutionized the way in which the Navy deployed ships to ensure that a single Russian nuclear attack could not destroy an entire fleet;

(2) serving in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War;

(3) providing significant support during the Cuban Missile Crisis as the Commander of the Guantanamo Defense Force;

(4) receiving awards that include the Navy Cross, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, 3 Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, 5 Bronze Stars, 2 Air Medals, 2 Purple Hearts, and numerous combat theater and campaign awards;

(5) retiring in 1977 at the rank of Rear Admiral after serving as Commandant of the Armed Forces Staff College; and

(6) being inducted into the Alabama Military Hall of Honor in 2003;

Whereas Senator Denton was shot down on July 18, 1965, while leading a squadron of 28 A-6 Intruders on his twelfth mission over North Vietnam and spent the next 7 years and 7 months as a prisoner of war in North Vietnamese prison camps, including the “Hanoi Hilton”, where he suffered torture, beatings, and starvation, and spent 4 years in solitary confinement until his release in 1973;

Whereas despite extreme hardship, Senator Denton was revered by his fellow prisoners and maintained a chain of command that lasted throughout his imprisonment and helped prisoners of war stick together in resistance against abuse from their captors;

Whereas in a televised propaganda interview released by the North Vietnamese in 1966, Senator Denton became a national hero when he answered the questions of his interviewer and simultaneously blinked the letters “T-O-R-T-U-R-E” in Morse code, confirming to the world the harsh and inhumane treatment of United States prisoners of war by the North Vietnamese;

Whereas after returning to the United States, Senator Denton had a successful legislative career, becoming in 1980 the first Republican elected to the Senate from Alabama since the Reconstruction Era, maintaining a strong conservative record, and working tirelessly with President Ronald Reagan to combat the rise of Communism in Latin America;

Whereas Senator Denton was particularly proud of the “Denton Program”, authorizing the United States military to

carry humanitarian aid on a space-available basis to countries in need at no cost to the donor and providing humanitarian aid for almost 30 years;

Whereas in 2007, the National Archives designated Senator Denton as 1 of the 25 most influential men in United States history; and

Whereas the life of service of Senator Denton should serve as an example to all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) the Senate—

3 (A) has heard with profound sorrow and
4 deep regret the announcement of the death of
5 the Honorable Jeremiah Andrew Denton, Jr.,
6 former member of the Senate;

7 (B) honors the legacy and service of the
8 former Senator and retired Rear Admiral, Jere-
9 miah Andrew Denton Jr. (referred to in this
10 resolution as “Senator Denton”), for his life of
11 loyalty, duty, integrity, and moral sincerity;

12 (C) extends its deepest condolences and
13 sympathy to the family and friends of Senator
14 Denton who have lost an inspiring leader and
15 confidant;

16 (D) honors the dauntless valor of Senator
17 Denton, beloved son of Alabama, for his dedica-

1 tion and life of selfless service to the people of
2 the United States;

3 (E) recognizes that Senator Denton was a
4 champion for humanitarian aid and inter-
5 national assistance programs through his legis-
6 lative work and initiatives;

7 (F) reiterates the resolute character of
8 Senator Denton as a paragon of bravery who
9 lived a life of honor guided by his values and
10 commitment to the defense of the United
11 States;

12 (G) expresses admiration and profound re-
13 spect for the legacy of Senator Denton as a
14 truly courageous and inspirational leader; and

15 (H) directs the Secretary of the Senate to
16 communicate this resolution to the House of
17 Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy
18 thereof to the family of the deceased; and

19 (2) when the Senate adjourns today, it will
20 stand adjourned as a further mark of respect for the
21 memory of the Honorable Jeremiah Andrew Denton,
22 Jr.

○