

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017

HR 1013

4  
5 By: Representative Sorvillo

6  
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 HONORING THE 308TH TITAN II STRATEGIC MISSILE WING  
9 AND THE RESPONSE TO THE 1980 MISSILE EXPLOSION AT  
10 DAMASCUS, ARKANSAS.

11  
12  
13 **Subtitle**

14 HONORING THE 308TH TITAN II STRATEGIC  
15 MISSILE WING AND THE RESPONSE TO THE 1980  
16 MISSILE EXPLOSION AT DAMASCUS, ARKANSAS.

17  
18  
19 WHEREAS, on September 19, 1980, the 308th Titan II Strategic Missile  
20 Wing experienced a day none of them will ever forget; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, a Titan 374-7, a 350,000-pound missile with a nine-and-a-half-  
23 megaton thermonuclear warhead attached, exploded because an eight-and-three-  
24 quarter-pound socket fell from a wrench at the missile silo site in Damascus,  
25 Arkansas, a location about 40 miles northwest of the Little Rock Air Force  
26 Base, setting off a series of events that led to the explosion; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, Senior Airman David L. Livingston died in the explosion, 21  
29 people were injured, and the residents in the area experienced ill effects  
30 from the fumes; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, retired Colonel Jimmie D. Gray, the former vice-wing commander  
33 at the air force base called it a "tremendous explosion", and though it was  
34 one of the worst mishaps in the existence of the missile wing at the air  
35 force base, Gray said, "It should in no way detract from the outstanding  
36 contributions thousands of men and women of the 308th organization made over



1 a twenty-five-year period. Their dedication and sacrifice ensured a lasting  
2 peace through nuclear deterrents. We were an outstanding unit...but there  
3 are lessons to be learned."; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, the explosion occurred during the Cold War era, when the Titan  
6 II missile was a nuclear deterrent and the most powerful missile in the  
7 United States arsenal; the thermonuclear bomb on the Titan was 1,700 times  
8 more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, at the end of World  
9 War II; and collectively, the 18 Titan missiles in Arkansas had more  
10 destructive power than all the wars in human history combined until that  
11 time; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, lessons learned from the accident brought about security  
14 improvements for nuclear weapons across the United States,  
15

16 NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL  
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

20 THAT the House of Representatives recognize the sacrifices made by  
21 members of the 308th Titan II Strategic Missile Wing and honor them for their  
22 service.  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be  
25 provided to the Little Rock Air Force Base by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
26 Representatives.  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36