

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

HCR 1010

4
5 By: Representatives Crawford, L. Johnson, Gramlich, Rose, J. Richardson
6 By: Senator J. Boyd

7
8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 TO RECOGNIZE LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD CHAFFIN FOR
10 HIS DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES MADE ON BEHALF OF THE
11 UNITED STATES.

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13
14 **Subtitle**

15 TO RECOGNIZE LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAROLD
16 CHAFFIN FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SACRIFICES
17 MADE ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES.

18
19 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Harold Chaffin was born on November 28, 1913, in
20 Sebastian County; and

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22 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Harold Chaffin entered the United States Army Air
23 Forces to serve during World War II and completed flight school at Kelly
24 Field in Texas; and

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26 WHEREAS, during the World War II, Lt. Col. Chaffin flew a B-17 Flying
27 Fortress, becoming one (1) of twelve (12) men flying their B-17s into Oahu
28 during the attack on Pearl Harbor; and

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30 WHEREAS, during the attack, he could not manage a landing at an
31 extremely damaged Hickam Field, going on to land his B-17 at Haleiwa
32 Airfield, an airfield meant only for fighter planes; and

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34 WHEREAS, this extraordinary landing merited being awarded the
35 Distinguished Flying Cross that Gen. Douglas MacArthur bestowed upon Lt. Col.
36 Chaffin and one (1) other pilot; and



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2 WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Chaffin continued to serve the United States in the
3 war, helping to evacuate MacArthur from the Philippines and he was later
4 deployed to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in March 1943; and

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6 WHEREAS, On March 26, 1943, Lt. Col. Chaffin was co-pilot of the B-17
7 Flying Fortress #41-24384, "Pluto" and also on board as pilot, was the
8 Commanding General of V Bomber Command, Brigadier General Howard K. Ramey.
9 The mission of the aircraft that day was to carry out a scheduled 7-hour
10 reconnaissance flight of Merauke and Horn Island; and

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12 WHEREAS, the last communication ever heard from the aircraft was a
13 message from the radio operator twenty (20) minutes after takeoff and an
14 extensive air search was conducted but no sign was ever found of the
15 aircraft, or the twelve (12) men on board; and

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17 WHEREAS, all persons on board the aircraft were officially declared
18 dead on November 19, 1945; and

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20 WHEREAS, everyone on the flight was posthumously awarded the Purple
21 Heart after officially being declared Killed in Action on November 19, 1945;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, March 26, 2023 will be the eightieth (80th) anniversary of the
25 disappearance of Lt. Col. Chaffin and it is important to honor the memory of
26 one (1) of many who served in World War II,

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28 NOW THEREFORE,

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30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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33 THAT the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring, recognize
34 Lt. Col. Harold Chaffin for his dedication and sacrifices on behalf of the
35 United States.

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be
2 provided to the family of Lt. Col. Chaffin by the Chief Clerk of the House of
3 Representatives.

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