2013 DRAFTING REQUEST

Assembly Joint Resolution

Received:	**8/14/2013**	Received By:	**rchampag**
Wanted:	**Soon**	Same as LRB:	
For:	**André Jacque (608) 266-9870**	By/Representing:	**Kevin Jenkins (LaSee)**
May Contact:		Drafter:	**rchampag**
Subject:	**Memorials - life and public ser.**	Addl. Drafters:	
		Extra Copies:	**SRM**

Submit via email: **YES**
Requester's email: **Rep.Jacque@legis.wisconsin.gov**
Carbon copy (CC) to:

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Major Thomas C. Griffin (ret) US Army Air Corps

Instructions:

See attached

Drafting History:

Vers.	Drafted	Reviewed	Typed	Proofed	Submitted	Jacketed	Required
/?	rchampag 8/14/2013	evinz 8/14/2013	rschluet 8/15/2013	_____ _____			
/1				_____ _____	mbarman 8/15/2013	lparisi 8/15/2013	

FE Sent For:

<END>

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FE Sent For:

<END>

Parisi, Lori

From: Jenkins, Kevin
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2013 12:07 PM
To: LRB.Legal
Subject: Draft Review: LRB -2833/1 Topic: Major Thomas C. Griffin (ret) US Army Air Corps

Please Jacket LRB -2833/1 for the SENATE.

Representative Jacque is the Assembly author on this resolution. Please release a jacketed Assembly version for his office.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jenkins
Chief of Staff, Senator Frank Lasee
Room 316 South, State Capitol
(608) 266-3512

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State of Wisconsin
2013 – 2014 LEGISLATURE

LRB-~~2833/1~~ 2931/1
SRM:eev:eev
+RAC

2013 ~~SENATE~~ ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to: commending the life and military service of Major Thomas C. Griffin (retired), U.S. Army Air Corps.

Whereas, Thomas C. Griffin was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, to Jane and John Griffin on July 10, 1916, and passed away on February 26, 2013, in Green Township, Ohio; and

Whereas, Thomas grew up during the Great Depression, witnessing his father's hardworking spirit and drive to never go without, influencing a young Thomas to live a life of dedication and hard work; and

Whereas, Thomas was fascinated throughout his childhood with aviation heroes Charles Lindbergh and James Doolittle, leading him to attend college and join the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC); and

Whereas, Thomas's ROTC experience led him to grow fonder of aviation and increased his desire to serve his country; and

Whereas, upon graduation, Thomas was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army Coast Artillery Corps, later volunteering for aviation cadet

1 training and subsequently being rated as a navigator and recommissioned in the
2 Army Air Corps, 17th Bomb Group; and

3 Whereas, Lt. Griffin was reassigned to Eglin Field, Florida, where he and 119
4 other aviators were asked to volunteer for a classified mission, about which they were
5 provided no details; and

6 Whereas, the mission, now named "Special Aviation Project #1," consisted of
7 intense training including learning how to take off in a B–25 in 250 feet or less, a feat
8 that was never accomplished before on a fully loaded bomber; and

9 Whereas, Lt. Griffin and his fellow aviators, upon completion of special
10 training, were reassigned to the Navy's newest carrier, the USS *Hornet*, to carry out
11 their mission, which was now disclosed as bombing Tokyo; and

12 Whereas, on April 18, 1942, at 0820, Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle led
13 the first of 16 B–25s off the deck of the *Hornet*, including Lt. Griffin's B–25, the
14 Whirling Dervish; and

15 Whereas, the distance to Japan was 650 nautical miles (300 miles longer than
16 planned), yet the 16 B–25s known as the Doolittle Raiders continued with their
17 mission at great personal risk, carrying out a successful bombing campaign on Tokyo;
18 and

19 Whereas, Lt. Griffin's crew, upon completion of the bombing run, turned toward
20 China with the anticipation of landing safely, but instead crash–landed behind
21 enemy lines, where they would stay for seven days; and

22 Whereas, Lt. Griffin, upon leaving China, was reassigned to a B–26 crew in the
23 European theater of war, conducting bombing missions over northern Africa and
24 Italy; and

Whereas, Lt. Griffin's B–26 was shot down by German aircraft over Sicily on July 4, 1943; and

Whereas, Lt. Griffin was captured by German forces once he was on the ground, and was held at the Stalag Luft III prisoner–of–war camp for the next 22 months; and

Whereas, Lt. Griffin and his fellow POWs were liberated by General Patton's Third Army, and Lt. Griffin returned home to America on May 15, 1945, and married the love of his life, Esther, on June 22, 1945; and

Whereas, Thomas Griffin retired from the Army Air Corps in September 1945 as a major. His decorations include a Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals, and the Chinese Army, Navy and Air Corps Medal, Class A, First Grade; and

Whereas, Thomas Griffin, upon his retirement from the Army Air Corps, became a father to two sons, Gary and John, and operated a successful accounting business in Cincinnati, Ohio, until his retirement in 1983; and

Whereas, Thomas Griffin spent countless hours speaking to people young and old about the Doolittle raid, teaching how the courage and actions of a few can change the morale and discourse of an entire country; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That the legislature salutes Thomas Griffin's military service and mourns his passing.

(END)