**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF SENATOR JEREMIAH DENTON JR.**

**REAR ADMIRAL, UNITED STATES NAVY, RETIRED**

Whereas, on July 18, 1965, then Commander, Jeremiah Denton Jr., during the course of his service aboard the USS Independence as part of Attack Squadron Seventy-Five, while flying an A-6A Intruder combat mission over the city of Thanh Hoa in North Vietnam, was shot down, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton was captured by North Vietnamese forces, and was taken to the infamous Hỏa Lò Prison outside Hanoi, dubbed the Hanoi Hilton by the many Prisoners of War confined there, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton, received daily torture and brutal treatment by his captors, describing many methods that the North Vietnamese employed, including, as quoted, “They beat you with fists and fan belts,” and explaining that his captors often used ropes to cut off circulation to limbs for extended periods of time creating intense muscle spasms and loss of feeling, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton, displaying remarkable courage and dedication to country, risked life and limb to transmit a message to the world by using Morse code to send the message “T-O-R-T-U-R-E” while in a televised interview as part of a North Vietnamese propaganda campaign, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton, during the course of the interview, surprised his captors by saying, “Whatever the position of my government is, I support it fully. Whatever the position of my government, I believe in it … I am a member of that government, and it is my job to support it, and I will as long as I live,” and

Whereas, In retaliation for his insubordination, Jeremiah Denton received increased levels of mental and physical abuse, praying to keep his sanity as his captors took their revenge on him, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton was also confined in many other prisons referred to as the “Zoo,” “Little Vegas,” and “Alcatraz,” and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton, while serving in “Alcatraz,” became a member of the “Alcatraz Gang,” for encouraging other Prisoners of War to resist their captors, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton’s fellow captors included other great Republicans such as John McCain and Hawai‘i’s own Jerry Coffee, and

Whereas, despite the abuse and torture that he received for more than seven and a half years as a Prisoner of War, his enduring spirit never wavered and upon returning home, he spoke as the senior Commissioned Officer Prisoner of War and said, “We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country,” and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton continued to serve his country in the Navy for another four years and retired as a Rear Admiral, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton, a great admirer of Ronald Reagan, ran for and won a seat in the U.S. Senate from Alabama, bringing his conservative and family values to Washington, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton, after serving in the U.S. Senate founded the Coalition for Decency and launched a humanitarian outreach to needy countries through his National Forum Foundation, arranging shipments of donated goods, and

Whereas, Jeremiah Denton, led a life of service and sacrifice for the American people and is an exemplar for all, and

Whereas, on March 28, 2014, Jeremiah Denton passed away at the age of 89, now, be it

Resolved, That as Memorial Day is ten days from now and we will honor all our fallen heroes, today, at this Hawai‘i State Republican Convention, let us commemorate and honor the life of the Honorable Jeremiah Denton Jr., Rear Admiral, USN Retired.

Mark Moses