



February 4, 2016

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 18

Introduced by: Saunders

February 3, 2016, read first time and referred to Committee on Roads and Transportation.

A HOUSE RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Transportation to name the bridge on Highway 52 over the Flatrock River in Rushville the "Joseph Cotton Bridge".

Whereas, Joseph Frederick Cotton was born in Rushville on January 21, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Cotton;

Whereas, Joseph graduated from Manilla High School, where he was a member of the basketball team and the 4-H Club;

Whereas, Joseph helped his father on the family farm until he was 20 years old and was smitten with flying;

Whereas, Joseph, whose flight instructor was Bob Winter,



first soloed in a Taylorcraft plane at New Castle;

Whereas, Infatuated with flight, Joseph enlisted in the Army Air Corps and received his flight training in Texas;

Whereas, Joseph was commissioned as a second lieutenant and received his wings on June 26, 1943;

Whereas, As the co-pilot of a B-17 bomber on a mission over Athens, Greece, in November 1943, he was hit by enemy fire and forced to crash land on the island of Corfu, which was under German control;

Whereas, Joseph and the crew survived with the help of the Greek nationals and eventually arrived on Italian shores, where they were welcomed by a British merchant ship and sent on the final leg of their journey back to American hands;

Whereas, Soon after that Joseph began his career as a test pilot, ending up as the chief test pilot for the Air Force;

Whereas, Joseph piloted many exotic planes as a test pilot, including the XB-70, known as the Valkyrie;

Whereas, After retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Joseph Cotton was an engineering flight test pilot for United Airlines in San Francisco for 13 years;

Whereas, As a United Airlines test pilot, Joseph flew 84 different types of aircraft for a total of over 15,800 flight hours;

Whereas, During his career Joseph received numerous awards and recognitions, including being named the 1966 Pilot of the Year by the International Order of Characters, a Legion of Merit, an Air Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Aerospace Walk of Honor; and

Whereas, Joseph Cotton spent his life looking for the next plane to master: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:



1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives recognizes
2 the many accomplishments and contributions to the aviation industry
3 made by Joseph Cotton. The members of the Indiana House of
4 Representatives urge the commissioner of the Indiana Department of
5 Transportation to name the bridge over the Flatrock River on U.S.
6 Highway 52 in Rushville the "Joseph Cotton Bridge" in his honor.

7 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
8 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the commissioner
9 of the Indiana Department of Transportation and Joseph Cotton.

