



DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

RECOVER THE REMAINS OF THE HOT AS HELL CREW

WHEREAS, on 25 January 1944, a B-24J aircraft named “Hot As Hell” flew a resupply mission from Kunming, China to Chabua, India known as “The Hump”; and

WHEREAS, the crew of eight, 1LT William A. Swanson (VT), Flight Officer Sheldon L. Chambers (PA), 1LT Irwin G. Zaetz (VT), 1LT Robert E. Oxford (GA), SSG Charles D. Ginn (IL), SSG Harry B. Queen (MA), SGT James A. Hinson (NC), SGT Alfred H. Gerrans, Jr. (NC), did not arrive at their destination and were declared dead on 20 November 1944; and

WHEREAS, Clayton Kuhles is commended for finding the wreckage of the “Hot As Hell” on 7 December 2006, during a personal expedition to specifically research downed WWII aircraft in this area; and

WHEREAS, Larry Zaetz, brother of 1LT Irwin Zaetz, and Gary Zaetz of Cary, NC, nephew of 1LT Zaetz, have spent painstaking time researching and contacting family members of the “Hot As Hell” crew; and

WHEREAS, the “Hot As Hell” family led by Larry and Gary Zaetz have been the driving force between the governments of India and the United States renewing humanitarian efforts to recover remains of unaccounted for Americans from WWII; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States strongly supports the efforts of U.S. and Indian government officials in re-establishing humanitarian efforts for the recovery of the “Hot As Hell”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly urge the Congress to direct the Department of Defense to carry out this recovery mission as quickly as possible and to fully fund efforts to locate and return to U.S. soil all recoverable remains from this theater of operation.

Adopted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, Department of North Carolina on 14 June 2008.