

# Calendar No. 1506

82D CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT  
No. 1576

## AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRESENT THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS TO COL. ROSCOE TURNER

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MAY 15 (legislative day, MAY 12), 1952.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. KNOWLAND, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted  
the following

### REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 696]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 696) to authorize the President of the United States to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Col. Roscoe Turner, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill and the facts which recommend its enactment are set forth below in the language which is quoted from House Report 1678, filed by the Committee on Armed Services in the House of Representatives recommending enactment of the legislation.

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This bill would authorize the President to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Col. Roscoe Turner.

Colonel Turner served during World War I in the military forces, but the merits which justify the enactment of this bill are all predicated upon his activities as a civilian in civil aviation subsequent to World War I.

Colone. Turner spent the greater part of his life in the development and improvement of aerial science in America. He has won the Thompson Trophy race on three occasions; on three occasions he placed third in the Thompson Trophy race; he won second place in the Speed Division of the MacRobertson International Air Race; he has placed first, second, and third in various runnings of the Bendix Transcontinental Air Race and is the only person who has placed in all three positions in that race; and, he has broken the transcontinental air-speed record on seven separate occasions.

Much of his success in this field is attributed to the research and studies in aviation matters which Colonel Turner conducted at his own expense.

This is not a precedent. Public Law 276, Seventy-second Congress, authorized the awarding of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Wiley Post, Russell N. Boardman, John L. Polando, and Harold Gatty for similar aerial exploits and achievements.

The fiscal effects of the bill would be negligible, consisting merely of the cost of the appropriate medal and ribbon.

The Department of Defense and Bureau of the Budget interpose no objections to the enactment of this legislation, as evidenced by the letter of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force which is hereto attached and made a part of this report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,  
Washington, February 5, 1951.

HON. CARL VINSON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,*  
*House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I refer to your recent request to the Secretary of Defense for the comments of the Department of Defense on H. R. 696, a bill to authorize the President of the United States to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Col. Roscoe Turner. The Secretary of Defense has designated the Department of the Air Force to present the views of the Department of Defense on this bill.

The purpose of the bill is to authorize the presentation of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Col. Roscoe Turner in recognition of his meritorious achievements in and his contributions to the advancement of the science of aerial flight.

Under the existing law, such award cannot be made administratively, inasmuch as Colonel Turner has never held a federally recognized commission, his military status having arisen out of appointment to the staffs of the governors of various States.

Colonel Turner has spent the greater part of his life in the development and improvement of aerial science in America. His name has become intimately identified with the progress of aviation, both here and abroad, and his exploits and accomplishments have been many and varied. He has won the Thompson Trophy Race three times; on three occasions he placed third in the Thompson Trophy Race; he won second place in the speed division of the MacRobertson International Air Race; he has placed first, second, and third in various runnings of the Bendix Transcontinental Air Race, and is the only person who has placed in all three positions in that race; and he has broken the transcontinental air-speed record on seven separate occasions.

Colonel Turner has merited fully the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross by the very substantial contributions which he has made to the progress and development of the science of aviation. The enactment of this bill to authorize this award would not be without precedent. By the enactment of a similar act (47 Stat. 655), the Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded to Wiley Post, Russell N. Boardman, John N. Pollando, and Harold Gatty for their aerial exploits and achievements.

The fiscal effects of the subject bill in the event of its enactment would be negligible, consisting merely of the cost of the appropriate medal and ribbon.

The Department of the Air Force, on behalf of the Secretary of Defense, recommends the enactment of this bill.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

EUGENE M. ZUCKERT,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE,  
Washington, March 24, 1952.

HON. OVERTON BROOKS,  
*Chairman, Subcommittee No. 1,*  
*Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In a hearing before Subcommittee No. 1 of the House Committee on Armed Services, March 20, 1952, on H. R. 696, a bill to authorize the President of the United States to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Col. Roscoe Turner, information was requested of the Air Force witness as to the reasons for previous similar awards.

Public Resolution No. 31, approved July 2, 1932, authorized the President to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart Putnam for displaying

heroic courage and skill as a navigator, at the risk of her life, by her nonstop flight in her plane, unnamed, from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, to Londonderry, Ireland, on May 20, 1932, by which she became the first and only woman and the second person to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a plane in solo flight, and also established new records for speed and elapsed time between the two continents.

Public Law 276, approved July 11, 1932, authorized the President to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Russell N. Boardman and John L. Polando, who achieved a 5,011.8-mile nonstop trans-Atlantic flight from the United States to Istanbul, Turkey, and also the Distinguished Flying Cross to Wiley Post, pilot, and Harold Gatty, navigator, in recognition of their achievement in making an airplane flight around the world in 8 days, 15 hours, and 50 minutes, thus not only eclipsing in time all previous world flights but also, by their intrepid courage, remarkable endurance, and matchless skill, materially advancing the science of aerial navigation.

Enclosed are copies of the above-stated public resolution and public law. As far as is known, these have been the only previous awards similar to the one proposed in H. R. 696.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosures (2).

ROBERT E. L. EATON,  
Brigadier General, USAF,  
Director, Legislation and Liaison.

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[S. J. Res. 165]

JOINT RESOLUTION Authorizing the President of the United States to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart Putnam

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the President of the United States is authorized to present the Distinguished Flying Cross to Amelia Earhart Putnam for displaying heroic courage and skill as a navigator at the risk of her life, by her nonstop flight in her plane, unnamed, from Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, to Londonderry, Ireland, on May 20 1932, by which she became the first and only woman and the second person to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a plane in solo flight, and also established new records for speed and elapsed time between the two continents.

Approved July 2, 1932 (Public Res. 31).

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[H. R. 7939]

AN ACT To authorize the presentation of a distinguished flying cross to Russell N. Boardman and John L. Polando, and Wiley Post and Harold Gatty, and for other purposes

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the President is authorized to present, in the name of the Congress, a distinguished flying cross to Russell N. Boardman, of Brookline, Massachusetts, and John L. Polando, of Lynn, Massachusetts, who achieved a five thousand and eleven and eight-tenths mile nonstop trans-Atlantic flight from the United States to Istanbul, Turkey, and, also a distinguished flying cross to Wiley Post, pilot, and Harold Gatty navigator, in recognition of their achievement in making an airplane flight around the world in eight days, fifteen hours, and fifty minutes, thus not only eclipsing in time all previous world flights, but also, by their intrepid courage, remarkable endurance, and matchless skill, materially advancing the science of aerial navigation.

Approved, July 11, 1932 (Public Law 276, 72d Cong.).

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