

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1851

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Lt. j.g. Jeffrey Vignery.

WHEREAS, Lt. j.g. Jeffrey Vignery, of Goodland, was one of the 24 crew members of the EP-3E surveillance aircraft that was damaged in a collision with a Chinese F-8 fighter and spent 11 days in Chinese custody; and

WHEREAS, The Chinese aircraft fell into the sea killing the pilot. The American plane fell several thousand feet before the pilot and crew were able to regain control and make an emergency landing at China's Hainan Island; and

WHEREAS, Lt. j.g. Vignery, who was in the left seat helping the aircraft commander, Lt. Osborn, pilot the plane, frantically stomped on the aileron and rudder pedals to pull the plane out of the dive. "I didn't think we were going to make it. . . . I said another prayer at that time, just in case I didn't get it right the first time," Vignery said; and

WHEREAS, The crew was returned to its home station, NAS Whidbey Island at Oak Harbor, Washington, on April 14, 2001, to a rousing welcome by fellow squadron members of VQ1, other station members and family and friends; and

WHEREAS, Lt. j.g. Vignery was met by his wife, Julie; his parents, Ron and Judi Vignery; his sisters, Jennifer and Jessica, and brother, Josh, of Goodland; and

WHEREAS, It is only through the brave efforts of the men and women of VQ1 and the vigilance of the valiant members of our military services that America remains strong and the leading power of our planet: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Lt. j.g. Jeffrey Vignery upon his safe return to his home and family and salute his calm response in an emergency and his gallantry in America's defense; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Lt. j.g. Vignery; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Vignery; his sisters, Jennifer and Jessica, and brother, Josh; his grandmother, Mrs. Florence Vignery, and to Senators Haley and Clark.

Senate Resolution No. 1851 was sponsored by Senators Stan Clark and David Haley.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.