



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: Res 1836-2001 **Version:** * **Name:** Welcoming home the 24 crew members of EP-3E Aries II surveillance plane.

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In control: Parks, Recreation, Cultural Affairs, and International Intergroup Relations

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Title: Resolution welcoming home from China the 24 members of the United States Armed Forces who made up the crew of the EP-3E Aries II surveillance plane downed over Hainan Island, especially Staten Island resident and Navy cryptographer Kenneth Richter.

Sponsors: Peter F. Vallone, James S. Oddo, Martin Malave-Dilan, Kathryn E. Freed, Sheldon S. Leffler, Helen M. Marshall, Stanley E. Michels, Eva S. Moskowitz, Michael C. Nelson, Mary Pinkett, Michael J. Abel, Alphonse Stabile, Herbert E. Berman, June M. Eisland, Kenneth K. Fisher, Wendell Foster, Julia Harrison, Karen Koslowitz, Jerome X. O'Donovan, Morton Povman, Victor L. Robles, Angel Rodriguez

Indexes:

Attachments:

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
4/17/2001	*	City Council	Introduced by Council, IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION	
4/17/2001	*	City Council	Approved, by Council	Pass

Res. No. 1836

Resolution welcoming home from China the 24 members of the United States Armed Forces who made up the crew of the EP-3E Aries II surveillance plane downed over Hainan Island, especially Staten Island resident and Navy cryptographer Kenneth Richter.

By The Speaker (Council Member Vallone) and Council Members Oddo, Malave-Dilan, Freed, Leffler, Marshall, Michels, Moskowitz, Nelson, Pinkett, Abel and Stabile; also Council Members Berman, Eisland, Fisher, Foster, Harrison, Koslowitz, O'Donovan, Povman, Robles and Rodriguez

Whereas, On April 1, 2001 an EP-3E Aries II reconnaissance plane based in Whidbey Island, Washington, left on a routine surveillance flight over international waters; and

Whereas, Although the plane never entered Chinese territorial waters, fighters were scrambled to meet the American plane; and

Whereas, In the subsequent engagement, one of the Chinese fighters collided with the EP-3E Aries II, resulting in the downing of both planes and the death of the Chinese pilot; and

Whereas, Though the damage inflicted by the crash seemed likely to result in a fatal crash for the EP-3E Aries II, the courage and skill of its crew, particularly its pilot, Lt. Shane Osborne, allowed the plane to land safely on Hainan Island; and

Whereas, Once on the ground, the entire 24 person crew of the plane was detained by the People's Republic of China for 11 days; and

Whereas, On April 12th, after intense, high-level negotiations between the United States and China, the crew was returned to American soil; and

Whereas, The 24 crew members are: Ensign Richard Bensing of Brandon, Fla.; Aviation Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Steven Blocher of Charlotte; Cryptologic Technician Seaman Bradford Borland; Aviation Electronics Technician Dave Michael Cecka; Lt. (j.g.) John Comerford of Palos Verdes Estates, Calif.; Cryptologic Technician Operator 1st Class Shawn Coursen of Valdosta, Ga.; Petty Officer Jeremy Crandall; Cryptologic Technician Interpretive 1st Class Josef Edmunds of Davis, Calif.; Cryptologic Technician Interpretive 2nd Class Brandon Funk of Showlow, Ariz.; Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Scott Guidry of Satellite Beach, Fla.; Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Jason Hanser of Billings, Mont.; Lt. Patrick Honeck of La Mesa, Calif.; Lt. (j.g.) Regina Kauffman of Warminster, Pa.; Aviation Machinist's Mate Senior Chief Nicholas Mellos.; Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Ramon Mercado of Moreno Valley, Calif.; Lt. Shane Osborn of Norfolk, Neb.; Lt. (j.g.) Richard Payne; Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Kenneth Richter of Staten Island, N.Y.; Lt. Marcia Sonon of Lenharstville, Pa.; Lt. (j.g.) Jeffrey Vignery of Goodland, Kan.; Aviation Machinist 2nd Class Wendy Westbrook of Rock Creek, Ohio, and Cryptologic Technician 3rd Class Rodney Young of Katy, Tex.; and

Whereas, Kenneth Richter is a resident of Staten Island, and represented his City and his country in an honorable and exemplary manner; and

Whereas, All of these individuals underwent a harrowing ordeal in the service of their nation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York welcomes home from China the 24 members of the United States Armed Forces who made up the crew of the EP-3E Aries II surveillance plane downed over Hainan Island, especially Staten Island resident and Navy cryptographer Kenneth Richter.