

House Resolution 687

By: Representatives Cooper of the 43rd, Stephens of the 164th, Gilliard of the 162nd, Petrea of the 166th, and Williams of the 168th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the lives and memories of the nine victims of the C-130 plane crash near Savannah
2 Georgia on May 2, 2018; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the C-130 "Hercules" aircraft that nosedived onto a Georgia highway, killing
4 all nine Puerto Rican airmen aboard, was an aging aircraft used by the Puerto Rico National
5 Guard after last year's hurricane and was on its final flight en route to retirement in Arizona;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, all nine crew members had helped with hurricane recovery efforts as part of the
8 198th Fighter Squadron, nicknamed the Bucaneros, which flies out of Base Muniz in the
9 northern coastal city of Carolina; the plane belonged to the Puerto Rico National Guard's
10 156th Air Wing; and

11 WHEREAS, a C-130 is a weather reconnaissance aircraft used by the Air Force and the Air
12 National Guard and typically has a crew of five, with room for dozens of passengers and
13 cargo; and

14 WHEREAS, the C-130 "Hercules" aircraft crashed shortly after takeoff from
15 Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport; this plane was used to rescue United States
16 citizens stranded in the British Virgin Islands following Hurricane Irma, and to ferry supplies
17 to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria; and

18 WHEREAS, U.S. President Donald Trump and Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello
19 extended condolences and offered thoughts and prayers to the families of the nine airmen;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Major Jose Roman was a highly decorated instructor and aviator pilot with over
22 18 years of service and 3,700 flying hours; and

23 WHEREAS, Major Carlos Perez-Serra was a distinguished master navigator and chief of
24 weapons and tactics, with over 23 years of service and 2,400 flying hours; and

25 WHEREAS, First Lieutenant David Samuel Albandoz was a dedicated loadmaster and
26 co-pilot with 16 years of service and over 2,000 flying hours; and

27 WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Jan A. Paravisini-Ruiz was an honored maintenance
28 management analyst with 21 years of service; and

29 WHEREAS, Senior Master Sergeant Victor Colon was a noble aircrew flight equipment
30 craftsman of the 156th Operations Support Squadron with 22 years of service; and

31 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Mario Braña-Ortega was an acclaimed flight engineer with 17
32 years of service and over 180 flying hours; and

33 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Eric Raul Circuns was a venerable senior evaluator with 31
34 years of service and over 2,900 flying hours; and

35 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Jean Michael Rivera was an esteemed aircraft maintenance
36 craftsman and flying crew chief with 16 years of service; and

37 WHEREAS, Senior Airman Roberto Espada was an extraordinary aircrew flight equipment
38 journeyman assigned to the 156th Operations Support Squadron with 3 years of service; and

39 WHEREAS, these courageous airmen were highly regarded by the citizens of their
40 communities as men of unquestioned integrity and dedication to the sound principles of
41 service to Puerto Rico and the United States; and

42 WHEREAS, they exhibited extraordinary devotion to public service, outstanding loyalty,
43 fine leadership, and meticulous attention to detail in all of their duties; and

44 WHEREAS, these airmen will long be remembered for their inspiring commitment to the
45 welfare of others, which stands as a shining example of the positive effect military
46 professionals have on the lives and well-being of others.

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
48 the members of this body join in honoring the lives and memories of the nine victims of the

49 C-130 plane crash in Savannah on May 2, 2018, and express their most sincere condolences
50 at their passing.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives / Secretary
52 of the Senate is authorized and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution
53 available for distribution to the families of Major Jose Ramon, Major Carlos Perez-Serra,
54 First Lieutenant David Samuel Albandoz, Senior Master Sergeant Jan A. Paravisini-Ruiz,
55 Senior Master Sergeant Victor Colon, Master Sergeant Mario Braña-Ortega, Master Sergeant
56 Eric Raul Circuns, Master Sergeant Jean Michael Rivera, and Senior Airman Roberto
57 Espada.