

By: Neave

H.R. No. 1172

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed member of the  
2 Greatest Generation is truly cause for celebration, and Robert  
3 Richard Fegraeus of Dallas marked this momentous milestone in his  
4 life on April 4, 2021, in the company of family and friends; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1921, Bob Fegraeus is  
6 the son of Erik and Idaline Fegraeus; he graduated from Central High  
7 School and attended what is now the University of Minnesota Duluth;  
8 coming of age during World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and  
9 became a pilot; he served in the Pacific Theater on the USS  
10 *Independence* (CVL-22) with VFN-41, the "Shademaids"; his squadron  
11 is considered the first to fly night missions off aircraft carriers  
12 without radar, requiring aviators to read the wake of the carrier  
13 and land by the dim light of smudge pots on the deck; and

14           WHEREAS, One of the first Hellcat fighter pilots,  
15 Mr. Fegraeus logged over 900 hours in F6Fs, racking up 140 carrier  
16 landings, including 40 at night; on one mission, his plane took  
17 enemy fire through the wing, less than four feet from the cockpit;  
18 he continued to serve following the war, retiring after 22 years in  
19 1964 at the rank of commander; and

20           WHEREAS, Mr. Fegraeus married Doris "Dorrie" Zimmerman in  
21 Coronado, California; settling in Dallas, they raised three  
22 children, and Mr. Fegraeus worked as a claims manager for Mutual of  
23 Omaha; the couple shared a fulfilling relationship until  
24 Mrs. Fegraeus's passing in 2010; and

1           WHEREAS, A valued member of his community, Mr. Fegraeus  
2 belongs to East Dallas Christian Church, where he is known for his  
3 dry wit and coffee-making prowess, as well as his derring-do,  
4 although he reportedly gave up skydiving at some point after his  
5 90th birthday; today, he enjoys the love and support of his family,  
6 which has grown to include his daughter, Karin Morgan, and her  
7 husband, Sonny, his sons, Eric and his wife, Susie, and Kurt and his  
8 wife, Susan, and his grandchildren, Jason, Jennifer, Jacob, Kelsey,  
9 Jordan, and Kendall, and great-grandchildren, Drew, Ben, and  
10 Hannah; and

11           WHEREAS, Over the course of a century, Bob Fegraeus has  
12 bravely served his nation and met life's challenges and  
13 opportunities with grace and fortitude, earning the deep admiration  
14 of all who are privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Robert Richard Fegraeus on his  
17 100th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
18 happiness; and, be it further

19           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for Mr. Fegraeus as an expression of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.