

By: Johnson of Dallas

H.R. No. 107

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, U.S. Army Colonel (Ret.) Ralph Hockley of Dallas, a  
2 Holocaust survivor who distinguished himself through his exemplary  
3 service to his fellow citizens, passed away on November 8, 2023, at  
4 the age of 98; and

5           WHEREAS, Born as Rudolph Martin Hockenheimer on October 17,  
6 1925, Ralph Hockley grew up in a Jewish household in Karlsruhe,  
7 Germany; after Adolf Hitler rose to power, he and his family sought  
8 refuge in Marseille, France, only to once again find themselves  
9 under threat when the Nazis invaded France in May 1940; Mr. Hockley  
10 was targeted for being a German immigrant and ultimately expelled  
11 from school, while his father was arrested and held in various  
12 internment camps; and

13           WHEREAS, Unable to return to school, Mr. Hockley used his  
14 German, English, and French language skills to become an  
15 interpreter for the American Friends Service Committee, a  
16 Quaker-run organization that helped refugees to escape Nazi Germany  
17 and occupied France; Mr. Hockley went on to use his connections to  
18 the Quakers and the U.S. Consulate to secure visas for himself and  
19 his family; after a long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean, the  
20 Hockleys arrived in New York on June 30, 1941; and

21           WHEREAS, On the day he turned 18 years old, Mr. Hockley  
22 enlisted in the U.S. Army, and he was eventually deployed to Europe  
23 for assignments in port security and counterintelligence; in May  
24 1946, he concluded his active duty service at the rank of sergeant

1 and remained in the army reserve; he subsequently earned a  
2 bachelor's degree in Soviet studies from Syracuse University before  
3 returning to active duty during the Korean War; he served in seven  
4 campaigns in Korea, including as a forward observer for French  
5 United Nations forces during the Battle of Heartbreak Ridge; in  
6 recognition of his valorous actions in that war, he earned a Bronze  
7 Star Medal with a "V" device, and he continued his career in  
8 U.S. intelligence in West Germany until 1981; he accepted the  
9 Legion of Honour, France's top civilian honor, in 2021; and

10       WHEREAS, From an early age, Mr. Hockley actively sought out  
11 service opportunities in a number of organizations, including the  
12 Free French youth association and the United Nations Appeal for  
13 Children; for more than 70 years, he was a member of the Reserve  
14 Officers Association of the United States, in which he held various  
15 offices; he further served as president of the San Francisco branch  
16 of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and as a  
17 chapter president of the Korean War Veterans Association; in 2000,  
18 he published a book about his military career and his experience  
19 living in Nazi Germany, *Freedom Is Not Free*; he resided in the  
20 Dallas area for a decade before his passing, and he had recently  
21 begun sharing his story with visitors to the Dallas Holocaust and  
22 Human Rights Museum and with other adult and student groups; and

23       WHEREAS, Mr. Hockley met his first wife, fellow Holocaust  
24 survivor Eva Frankel, in Oakland, California, and the couple shared  
25 in the joy of raising two children, Clifford and Denise; after her  
26 death in 1983, he was fortunate to find love a second time with the  
27 former Carolyn Glover Harris, his wife of nearly four decades; he

1 was blessed with a blended family that included three stepchildren,  
2 Kris, Heidi, and Kirk, as well as many grandchildren,  
3 step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, After bearing witness to one of the darkest chapters  
5 in history, Ralph Hockley courageously stepped forward to serve his  
6 adopted country and to defend the cause of freedom, and those he  
7 leaves behind will forever find inspiration in their memories of  
8 this extraordinary man; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
10 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
11 Ralph Hockley and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of his  
12 family: to his wife, Carolyn Glover Hockley; to his children,  
13 Clifford Hockley and Denise Hockley; to his stepchildren, Kris  
14 Harris, Heidi Hargis, and Dr. Kirk Harris; to his grandchildren,  
15 step-grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and to his other  
16 relatives and friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ralph  
20 Hockley.