

By: Gutierrez

S.C.R. No. 52

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the passing of U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.)
3 James D. Kniker of San Antonio on December 24, 2022, at the age of
4 85; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Seguin, Jim Kniker was born on December
6 2, 1937, to Theodore Kniker and Alice Steger, and he grew up with
7 three brothers, Ted, Charles, and Kenn; he was president of his
8 graduating class at Seguin High School, and he continued his
9 education at The University of Texas at Austin, where he received a
10 math degree and worked with the Texas Longhorns under the
11 leadership of Coach Darrell Royal; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Kniker served for 23 years in the U.S. Air Force
13 as an aerial navigator; he was an electronic warfare officer on
14 Vietnam tours and on Operation Arc Light bombing missions; his
15 medals included the Distinguished Flying Cross for the exceptional
16 skill he demonstrated during a flight on the wave lead aircraft; on
17 a mission programmed against a high priority target belonging to a
18 hostile government, his knowledge and use of electronic
19 counter-measures aided in successfully defending the aircraft and
20 wave against hostile weapons systems and assured the completion of
21 the mission by all aircraft; and

22 WHEREAS, Following the Vietnam War, Mr. Kniker obtained a
23 master's degree in computer science from Oklahoma State University;
24 he later served in NATO Allied Forces Central Europe warfare

1 development, and he became a multinational military educator,
2 helping to enhance war-fighting readiness; moreover, he taught at
3 the Air War College and played a vital role in the integration of
4 computers in professional military education; he retired from the
5 air force at the rank of lieutenant colonel, and he subsequently
6 worked for a defense contractor in the private sector; and

7 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Kniker enjoyed the love
8 and support of his wife, Christine, and he took great pride in his
9 children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; he was known for
10 his wonderful sense of humor, and he touched the lives of those
11 around him with his gentle and caring spirit; and

12 WHEREAS, Deeply dedicated to his family and his country, Jim
13 Kniker earned the lasting respect and admiration of all who were
14 privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel
17 (Ret.) James D. Kniker and extend heartfelt condolences to the
18 members of his family: to his wife, Christine Richman; to his
19 children, Alison, Chris and his wife, Catherine, Kimberly, Kathy,
20 Nanette, and Tommy; to his grandchildren, Desiree and her husband,
21 Derek, Caitlin, Hannah, Brian, and Rebecca; to his
22 great-grandchildren, Foster and Hattie; and to all others who mourn
23 his passing; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
27 Jim Kniker.