

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 130

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Odessa and the State of Texas lost a
2 dedicated and respected public servant with the death of Judge Paul
3 McCollum on March 30, 2004, at the age of 79; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Comanche on March 13, 1925, Paul McCollum
5 moved with his family to Odessa in 1940 at the beginning of his
6 junior year in high school; after graduating from Odessa High
7 School in 1942, he attended college for one semester before being
8 sworn in the U.S. Army Air Corps as an aviation cadet; he became the
9 youngest bombardier cadet ever to be graduated and commissioned
10 when he was awarded his wings and a 2nd Lieutenant commission at the
11 age of 18; and

12 WHEREAS, A true hero of World War II, Judge McCollum and his
13 crew were shot down over Romania and interned by Turkey before
14 escaping and making their way to Egypt; for his outstanding service
15 to his country, he was awarded two air medals, the European Theater
16 of Operations medal with three battle stars, the
17 Mediterranean-North African Theater of Operations medal with one
18 battle star, and the North American Theater of Operations medal;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, After the war ended, Judge McCollum attended Baylor
21 University, where he graduated with a J.D. degree in 1950; after
22 practicing law for three years in Odessa, he served Ector County as
23 county judge for two years and district judge for five years; in
24 1961, he resigned from the district court bench to practice law with

1 Shafer, Davis, McCollum, Ashley, O'Leary & Stoker for the next 32
2 years; in 1994, he was appointed justice for the Eighth Court of
3 Appeals and from 1995 until the time of his death, he served as
4 former and senior justice of that court; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge McCollum was admitted to practice before all
6 courts of Texas, the U.S. district courts, the U.S. courts of appeal
7 for the fifth and eleventh circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court;
8 throughout his professional career, he served on and chaired
9 committees of the State Bar of Texas, including the prestigious
10 State Bar Conference of Lawyers and Claims Adjusters; he also
11 served four terms as director of and as vice president of the Texas
12 Young Lawyers Association and was one of 300 conferees invited to
13 participate in the World Law Institute in 1997, hosted by President
14 Jimmy Carter and President Mikhail Gorbachev; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to his exceptional career in private
16 practice and public service, Judge McCollum also found the time to
17 take part in innumerable community organizations, serving as
18 president of the Odessa Town Hall Association, director of the
19 Odessa Boys Club, president of the Odessa Naturalist Society,
20 director of the Odessa Crystal Ball Foundation, and a founding
21 member of The University of Texas of the Permian Basin; other
22 affiliations included the Odessa Chamber of Commerce, the Odessa
23 Rotary Club, the Odessa Masonic Lodge No. 955, and the Odessa Park
24 Advisory Board; and

25 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, a lover of the law, and a
26 delightful raconteur, Judge McCollum lived a life of great service
27 to his country, to his community, and to the State of Texas;

1 described by friends and colleagues as an ideal American citizen
2 with a great personal dignity, he leaves behind a legacy of public
3 service and professional accomplishments that will long resonate in
4 the minds and hearts of all those who were privileged to know him;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
7 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
8 Judge Paul McCollum and extend sincere sympathy to the members of
9 his family: to his wife of 52 years, Alice Holland McCollum; to his
10 daughter, Kathleen M. McCulloch, and her husband, Michael; to his
11 son, Rector Choc McCollum, and his wife, Jill; to his
12 grandchildren, Travis Paul McCollum and Hannah Kathleen McCollum;
13 and to his many friends and colleagues; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge Paul
17 McCollum.