

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 85

In Memory  
of  
Frank Tom Blanda

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of San Antonio in mourning the loss of Frank Tom Blanda, who died July 21, 2005, at the age of 65; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom Blanda was born in Youngwood, Pennsylvania, to Mary and Michael Blanda in 1940; an excellent student and an outstanding athlete, he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1961; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom earned a master's degree in mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1969 and graduated from the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1975; he then served on the faculty at West Point for three years; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom's military career included two tours of duty in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and as an advisor to a Vietnamese army unit; he also served with the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and with the Command and General Staff at the Pentagon; he was serving with the Fifth Army at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio when he retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1985; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the course of his career, Tom received numerous awards and citations, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; and

**WHEREAS**, Following his military career, Tom pursued his passion for mathematics by teaching at Palo Alto College, San Antonio College, the University of the Incarnate Word, and the Texas Military Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of courage, strength, and compassion, Tom gave generously of himself to others, and his wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and

**WHEREAS**, A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Tom leaves behind memories that will be cherished forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Frank Tom Blanda: his wife, Brenda; his daughters and son-in-law, Juli Blanda, Mary "Katy" Blanda, and Holly and Jef Hershfelt; his grandchildren, Thomas Pierce, Frank Toby Blanda, and

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Ruby Hershfelt; his sister, Margaret Yakubisin; and his brothers, George, Paul, and John Blanda; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Frank Tom Blanda.

Van de Putte

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on August 15, 2005, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate