

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 48

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A loving family and host of friends celebrate the
2 life of Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Paul Bruce Montague of Bandera,
3 who passed away on February 9, 2006, at the age of 81; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on his family's ranch in Bandera on August 18,
5 1924, Mr. Montague graduated from Central Catholic High School in
6 San Antonio and later earned a degree in business administration
7 from St. Mary's University; he entered the United States Marine
8 Corps at the age of 18, and after completing boot camp he attended
9 the ordnance school in Norman, Oklahoma, where he took "high man"
10 honors; and

11 WHEREAS, An air gunner in World War II and in postwar China,
12 Colonel Montague subsequently served in the Korean War, flying 147
13 combat missions and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross; he also
14 earned the Bronze Medal in Korea for directing more strikes as a
15 forward air controller than any other Marine holding that post;
16 among the men he led in combat in the Korean War were Ted Williams, a
17 future standout for the Boston Red Sox, and John Glenn, later an
18 astronaut and U.S. senator; and

19 WHEREAS, Following his return to the states, Colonel Montague
20 was assigned as a test pilot to the Naval Air Test Center in
21 Patuxent River, Maryland, and to the Naval Ordnance Test Station;
22 during the Vietnam War he again saw combat, flying 188 missions
23 against the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong; while deployed to
24 Southeast Asia, he served as commanding officer of Marine Fighter

1 Squadron 122 and as executive flight officer of Marine Fighter
2 Squadron 114; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the course of his military career, Bruce
4 Montague was awarded a total of 23 air medals; he retired from the
5 armed forces on October 31, 1969, and returned home to Bandera,
6 where he spent the next three decades as a land broker; and

7 WHEREAS, Colonel Montague loved flying, and his daredevil
8 stunts have become the stuff of local legend; he also delighted in
9 giving displays of fancy roping, a skill he learned from the
10 vaqueros on his family's ranch; one of the inaugural performers at
11 the Texas Folklife Festival, he participated in that annual event
12 for more than 20 years; and

13 WHEREAS, In the latter part of his life, Colonel Montague
14 devoted much of his time and efforts to his responsibilities as a
15 board member of the San Antonio State School; he also collaborated
16 with his son Bruce on a military memoir, titled *The Hook*; and

17 WHEREAS, Married to Anna Garcia Montague, this devoted family
18 man was blessed with nine children, including his daughter Regina
19 Maria Montague, who preceded him in death; a greatly respected
20 member of his community, he was a congregant of First Baptist Church
21 in Bandera; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout his long and productive life, Bruce
23 Montague brought to all his endeavors an unfailing integrity,
24 purposefulness, and generosity of spirit, and his memory will be
25 forever cherished by those who were privileged to share in the
26 warmth of his love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas

1 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
2 Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Paul Bruce Montague and extend sincere
3 sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Anna Garcia
4 Montague; to his children, Dr. Bruce Montague, Dr. Katherine
5 Montague Rowley and her husband, Dr. Richard Rowley, Lytle Stephen
6 Montague, Armella Grainger and her husband, Charles Grainger,
7 Sheila Montague, Jason Gilbert Carlos Arredondo and his wife, Susan
8 Marie Arredondo, Dr. Paul Raymond Montague and his wife, Dr.
9 Melinda Marie Montague, and Cyrus Coleman Montague; to his 12
10 grandchildren; to his brother, the Reverend Dr. George Thomas
11 Montague, S.M.; to his sister-in-law, Virginia Gowen Montague; and
12 to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lieutenant
16 Colonel (Ret.) Paul Bruce Montague.