

By: Brown of Kaufman

H.R. No. 319

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Major General (Ret.) William A. Becker and his
2 family are being honored by the Daughters of the American
3 Revolution on Memorial Day weekend 2006 for their exceptional
4 service to this country; and

5 WHEREAS, General Becker was born on April 2, 1919, in the
6 Becker Community, Kaufman County, on the farm settled by his
7 great-grandfather in 1848; he received a diploma in 1936 from
8 Kaufman High School, where he served as president of the junior
9 class and his older brother, Walter "Pete" Becker, as president of
10 the senior class; and

11 WHEREAS, At Texas A&M University, Bill Becker served as cadet
12 corps commander during his senior year; he graduated in 1941 with a
13 degree in marketing and finance and a commission as a second
14 lieutenant of field artillery, with orders to report for duty with
15 the 1st Cavalry Division (Horse), at Fort Bliss; and

16 WHEREAS, During World War II, General Becker saw action in
17 the Southwest Pacific Theater and advanced in rank to lieutenant
18 colonel, commanding the field artillery battalion in which he began
19 his career; he later served in the Vietnam War, this time with the
20 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile); while assigned to that division
21 he earned his wings as a helicopter pilot and won promotion to major
22 general; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the course of his 30-year career in the
24 military, General Becker held a number of other command, staff, and

1 school assignments, among them postings as an artillery advisor to
2 the Venezuelan Army and as an army attaché to the U.S. Embassy in
3 Belgrade, Yugoslavia; in his last active duty assignment, he served
4 as chief of legislative liaison at the Pentagon; and

5 WHEREAS, General Becker's numerous military awards include
6 the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion
7 of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf
8 Cluster, and the Air Medal with 10 Oak Leaf Clusters; he also
9 received decorations from Venezuela and the Republic of Vietnam;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the army in 1971,
12 General Becker returned with his wife, Fran, and their three
13 youngest children to the farm on which he was raised, and he quickly
14 immersed himself in civic and business affairs; over the past 3-1/2
15 decades he has operated a cattle ranch, opened a real estate
16 brokerage, and served as president of Becker-Jiba Water Supply,
17 president of the Kaufman-Van Zandt Board of Realtors, and director
18 of the Texas Association of Realtors; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition, General Becker has been active in a
20 number of military-related organizations, and he has chaired the
21 Academies Screening Committee for Congressmen Ray Roberts and Ralph
22 Hall; he has also held membership in the Kaufman Lions Club, and he
23 is a valued congregant of Becker United Methodist Church; and

24 WHEREAS, General Becker's outstanding achievements have
25 reflected further honor on a family that has resided in Kaufman
26 County for many generations and that has long enjoyed the esteem of
27 area citizens; this family has the rare distinction, moreover, of

1 having two of its members hold high military rank at the same time:
2 General Becker's brother Charles attained the grade of rear admiral
3 in the United States Navy; and

4 WHEREAS, Through his devotion to duty, honor, and this
5 country, General Becker has embodied the highest ideals of the
6 United States armed forces, and it is a privilege to join in
7 recognizing the extensive service rendered by General Becker and
8 his family to the development of this state and the defense of this
9 nation; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor General William A.
12 Becker and his family for their exemplary civic and military
13 contributions; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for General Becker as an expression of high regard by the
16 Texas House of Representatives.