

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 442

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A host of friends and colleagues are celebrating the
2 life of Dr. Grady McWhiney, one of the most influential American
3 historians of the 20th century, who passed away at his home in
4 Abilene on April 18, 2006, at the age of 77; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. McWhiney devoted his professional life to the
6 study of the Civil War and the American South; his work is being
7 carried forward by the Grady McWhiney Research Foundation, located
8 at McMurry University, to whose endowment he pledged his entire
9 estate; and

10 WHEREAS, Born on July 15, 1928, in Shreveport, Louisiana,
11 Dr. McWhiney enlisted in the Marines in 1945; he later earned a
12 bachelor's degree from Centenary College, a master's from Louisiana
13 State University, and a doctorate from Columbia University, where
14 he was one of the first graduate students to work with the esteemed
15 historian David Herbert Donald; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the course of a career that spanned some four
17 decades, Dr. McWhiney taught at a number of institutions, among
18 them Troy State University, Milsaps College, the University of
19 California at Berkeley, Northwestern University, the University of
20 British Columbia, and Wayne State University; he directed the
21 Southern History Institute at the University of Alabama for many
22 years and later became the Lyndon Baines Johnson Professor of
23 American History at Texas Christian University, which subsequently
24 named him professor emeritus; in retirement, he taught at

1 Mississippi Southern University and at McMurry; and

2 WHEREAS, Altogether, Dr. McWhiney wrote or contributed to
3 several dozen books and authored scores of articles; his best-known
4 works include the biographical *Braxton Bragg and Confederate*
5 *Defeat*, a coauthored study of Confederate military tactics titled
6 *Attack and Die*, and a treatise on southern mores titled *Cracker*
7 *Culture: Celtic Ways in the Old South*; he also presented regularly
8 at the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical
9 Association, and the Southern Historical Association, and he
10 enjoyed great demand as a speaker for civic organizations and
11 groups of Civil War enthusiasts; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. McWhiney married Sue Baca in California in 1947
13 and they shared a union that endured for more than half a century,
14 until her passing in 2000; and

15 WHEREAS, A courtly gentleman whose joys in life included his
16 students, his friends, and good conversation, Dr. McWhiney also had
17 a passion for Irish and southern fiddle music and developed such an
18 expertise in that genre that he served on occasion as a fiddle
19 contest judge; and

20 WHEREAS, Respected as an impeccable scholar whose research
21 yielded provocative new theses, Grady McWhiney contributed
22 significantly to the study of American history and, through the
23 McWhiney Foundation, to the advancement of history education, and
24 his legacy will be felt for generations to come; now, therefore, be
25 it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
27 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of

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1 Dr. Grady McWhiney and express sincere appreciation for his
2 remarkable body of work and for his dedication to the exploration
3 and advancement of southern history; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives
5 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Grady McWhiney.