

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Lance C. Wade of Reklaw  
2 demonstrated extraordinary courage during his valiant service in  
3 World War II; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Broadus in 1915, Lt. Col. Wade joined  
5 Britain's Royal Air Force before the United States had officially  
6 entered the war; the State of Texas provided more volunteers for the  
7 RAF than any other state, and, in less than three years, Lt. Col.  
8 Wade climbed the ranks of the British military to achieve the status  
9 of wing commander; he eventually became the top American fighter  
10 pilot, flying Hurricanes and Spitfires in the North African  
11 campaign, and achieving 25 victories, an unprecedented number for  
12 an American fighter ace serving exclusively in a foreign air force;  
13 and

14           WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Wade was rewarded for his considerable  
15 efforts with the Distinguished Flying Cross with two bars,  
16 representing three awards, and a Distinguished Service Order; and

17           WHEREAS, From a farm in East Texas, where he was raised, to  
18 sharing tea with King George VI and meeting President Franklin D.  
19 Roosevelt, Lt. Col. Wade aptly described his fortuitous path when  
20 he said, "Before the RAF my life consisted of surveying land [from  
21 the backside] of a mule. Now I have had tea with the King of England  
22 and his family."; and

23           WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Wade's family and friends mourned his  
24 passing while serving his country on January 12, 1944, in Foggia,

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1 Italy, but they took comfort in knowing that he lived a fulfilling  
2 life, dedicated to patriotism and freedom; this distinguished  
3 fighter ace represented the essential relationship between Britain  
4 and the United States during World War II, and it is a pleasure to  
5 recognize his admirable achievements; now, therefore, be it

6       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel  
8 Lance C. Wade as a true American hero and extend to his descendants  
9 the immeasurable gratitude of the State of Texas for his ultimate  
10 sacrifice for his country.

Hopson

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 555 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 23, 2005.

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Chief Clerk of the House