

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Edgbert Hudson of Bridgeport is the last surviving
2 Wise County member of the Lost Battalion, a group of soldiers who
3 were held as prisoners of war by the Japanese during World War II;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In 1940, Mr. Hudson joined the army and was assigned
6 to Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery of
7 the 36th Division, and his training took place at Camp Bowie in
8 Brownwood and in Louisiana and the Philippines; and

9 WHEREAS, After the attack on Pearl Harbor, Mr. Hudson and his
10 400-troop battalion, which included soldiers from Wise County,
11 Jacksboro, Wichita Falls, and Abilene, helped dig trenches, load
12 bombs, and refuel planes on Java; on February 28, 1942, the Japanese
13 invaded the island, and the 2nd Battalion was forced to surrender to
14 the overwhelming numbers of the enemy; for the next 3-1/2 years, Mr.
15 Hudson and the members of what became known as the Lost Battalion
16 experienced the horrors of living as prisoners of war; and

17 WHEREAS, This brave soldier and his fellow prisoners were
18 moved to the dense jungle of Burma, where they were forced to build
19 by hand a 260-mile railroad and bridges; after suffering endless
20 brutalities and physical injuries, the soldiers were released when
21 the war ended in 1945, some 42 months after their capture; Mr.
22 Hudson was moved to a hospital in Calcutta, eventually making his
23 way home to Bridgeport; he still remembers with great feeling the
24 walk down the path from the gate to his family's farmhouse on his

1 return from his long and arduous journey; and

2 WHEREAS, Edgbert Hudson's courage and determination ensured
3 his survival as a prisoner of war, but his strength of character
4 helped him move on with his life after he returned from such a
5 harrowing experience; above all, he suffered an enormous sacrifice
6 in behalf of his country, and for this, this extraordinary member of
7 the Greatest Generation is a source of tremendous inspiration to
8 all those who know him; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
10 Legislature hereby honor Edgbert Hudson as a true American hero and
11 extend to him the immeasurable gratitude of the State of Texas for
12 his brave and valorous service to his country; and, be it further

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

King of Parker

H.R. No. 739

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 739 was adopted by the House on March 31, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House