

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 739

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.