

By: Smith of Tarrant

H.R. No. 1615

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of Donald R. Tharp of Bedford on
2 April 2, 2005, at the age of 65, North Texans have lost a valued
3 friend and decorated veteran whose extensive knowledge of local
4 history benefited countless people through his membership on the
5 Eules Historical Preservation Committee and as a docent at
6 Irving's Heritage Park; and

7 WHEREAS, The Tyler native was born on January 6, 1940, to Paul
8 Porter Tharp and Ethel Thompson Tharp, grew up in Fort Worth with a
9 younger brother, Paul, and graduated from Polytechnic High School,
10 with advanced standing, at the age of 16; and

11 WHEREAS, An exemplary scholar, Mr. Tharp earned a bachelor's
12 degree in physics and a master's degree in accounting from The
13 University of Texas at Arlington, then pursued graduate studies in
14 science and math at Southern Methodist University; he was also a
15 gifted musician and graphic artist who for a time earned his living
16 as a commercial artist; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Tharp joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1957,
18 attaining the rank of lieutenant, and went on active duty in 1963
19 during the Vietnam War; he spent the majority of his tenure with the
20 Military Air Transport Services, a global military air carrier,
21 earning medals and commendations for his role as his squadron's
22 navigator; and

23 WHEREAS, After leaving the military in 1967, he was employed
24 as a broker and marketing executive before joining the U.S.

1 Department of Housing and Urban Development where he was a
2 community planning developer for 20 years; for the past 11 years, he
3 worked as an accountant with a national tax service company; and

4 WHEREAS, This former Naval officer devoted much time to
5 veterans groups, including the American Legion and the Veterans of
6 Foreign Wars, and he was past vice commander of the Metroplex
7 Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars; and

8 WHEREAS, An individual of deep faith who attended Bible
9 classes at Bellevue Baptist Church in Hurst, he was a bibliophile
10 with a thirst for learning; further, he collected firearms, held a
11 Class III dealer's license, and was regarded as a highly
12 knowledgeable firearms consultant; and

13 WHEREAS, Don Tharp gave generously of himself to his fellow
14 Texans and his countrymen through his military service and his many
15 hours of volunteer work, and his memory will live on in the hearts
16 of all who were touched by the warmth of his friendship; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Donald R.
20 Tharp and extend sincere sympathy to his brother, Paul Tharp, and to
21 all who mourn the passing of this remarkable gentleman; and, be it
22 further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Donald R.
26 Tharp.