

By: Chisum

H.R. No. 53

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A long and eventful life filled with heroism, humor,
2 and an abiding religious faith came to a close with the passing of
3 Ralph Mack Wheat of New Braunfels on September 15, 2006, at the age
4 of 86; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Lufkin on December 22, 1919, Ralph Wheat was
6 a member of the remarkable generation of Americans who weathered
7 the Great Depression and secured the country's victory in World War
8 II, and he possessed the integrity and resolve that marked the best
9 men and women of his time; after coming of age in East Texas during
10 the hard times of the 1930s, he entered the U.S. Army in 1940 and was
11 selected for officer candidate school; he was commissioned as a
12 second lieutenant in 1941, the same year that the United States
13 entered the war, and volunteered for infantry duty; and

14 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Wheat went ashore in Normandy just two
15 days after the initial Allied invasion on D-Day and fought in
16 numerous battles in Europe as part of the "Timberwolf Division" of
17 the 104th Infantry; promoted to company commander, this courageous
18 leader contributed to the American advance toward Germany in 1944,
19 but on a fateful day in Holland, he was seriously wounded and was
20 sent back to the U.S. to recover; and

21 WHEREAS, In a hospital in St. Louis, this valiant soldier met
22 Alma Callahan, a nurse from Iowa; romance took its course, and they
23 were married on April 1, 1945, beginning a union that endured for
24 more than 61 years; and

1 WHEREAS, This loving couple watched their family grow as the
2 years passed, and Mr. Wheat took great pleasure in the time he spent
3 with his wife and children and with members of his extended family;
4 whether at reunions at the "old homestead" in Lufkin or on driving
5 vacations that toured the renowned sights of the United States, he
6 regaled his loved ones with humorous and thrilling tales taken from
7 his own experiences, which have become a beloved part of family
8 lore; and

9 WHEREAS, A lifelong Methodist, Mr. Wheat made sure that the
10 church was at the center of family activities; his full and generous
11 life was further enhanced by the more worldly joys of playing bridge
12 and spending time with his close friends; Ralph Wheat took immense
13 joy in living, and his laughter-filled conversations and positive
14 outlook will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to
15 have shared in his love and companionship; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ralph Mack Wheat and
18 extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his
19 wife, Alma Wheat; to his children, Tom Wheat and his wife, Gail
20 Silversteen, Judith Wynn and her husband, John Wynn, and John Wheat
21 and his wife, Lisa Wheat; to his grandsons, Jay Wheat, David Wheat,
22 John Stephen Wynn, and Jeff Wynn; to his great-granddaughter,
23 Sophia Wheat; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ralph Mack

1 Wheat.