

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyous times and  
2 meaningful accomplishments may console the family and friends of  
3 Benjamin Ellis Pickett, Sr., of Liberty, who passed away on August  
4 18, 2006; and

5           WHEREAS, Born on December 28, 1919, Mr. Pickett was a  
6 lifelong resident of Liberty; at the age of 13, he volunteered with  
7 the town's fire department and his enduring commitment led him to  
8 become its first full-time fire chief; during his notable tenure,  
9 he instituted an EMS program and became the first civil  
10 defense/civil preparedness director; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Pickett's dedication to his hometown was further  
12 evidenced by his service as a municipal judge and as the first  
13 police commissioner of Liberty; as a tribute to the many years he  
14 dedicated to his fellow citizens, the town fire-fighting training  
15 center was named in his honor; and

16           WHEREAS, A decorated veteran of World War II, Mr. Pickett  
17 served his country with distinction as a captain in the U.S. Army  
18 Air Corps; he flew 65 missions over France and Italy, and was chosen  
19 as lead bombardier in a historic mission over Florence that was  
20 cited as "one of the best examples of precision bombing in the  
21 world" by *National Geographic* magazine; demonstrating  
22 extraordinary courage and resolve, he was awarded the Distinguished  
23 Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal with seven clusters, European  
24 Mediterranean Theatre campaign ribbon with four battle stars, and

1 presidential unit citation, and his group earned the Croix de  
2 Guerre with Palm by General Charles de Gaulle; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Pickett was educated at Shriner Institute and  
4 The University of Texas and was a respected cattleman in addition to  
5 his other pursuits; late in life, he surprised his friends and  
6 family when he taught himself to use computers, a skill that he used  
7 to research the history of the region; and

8 WHEREAS, Ben Pickett was beloved for his wisdom, sharp wit,  
9 and compassion; said to be angered only by injustice, this devoted  
10 family man, noteworthy civic leader, and admired citizen is greatly  
11 missed, but his legacy of service to his country and his community  
12 will be remembered for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Benjamin Ellis  
15 Pickett, Sr., and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his  
16 family: to his wife, Ellen Watson Pickett; to his children,  
17 Benjamin Ellis Pickett, Jr., and his wife, Deborah, Laura Calfee  
18 and her husband, Gary, Lisa Edmonds and her husband, Clay, and Amy  
19 Leibman and her husband, Neil; to his grandchildren and  
20 great-grandchildren, Amy Lynn Hoffman, Russell Pickett, Marisa  
21 Henry, Beau Henry, Madison Leibman, Adrienne Leibman, Andrew  
22 Leibman, Genevieve deBittencourt, Skylar Edmonds, Carson Edmonds,  
23 Conner Edmonds, Avery Shiver, Abbigael Hoffman, and Victoria  
24 Pickett; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it  
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

H.R. No. 1392

1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Benjamin  
2 Ellis Pickett, Sr.

Otto

H.R. No. 1392

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1392 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 19, 2007.

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Chief Clerk of the House