

By: Isett

H.C.R. No. 270

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Family and friends of Oliver Clark Thomas of Lubbock  
2 were deeply saddened by his passing on December 16, 2008, at the age  
3 of 94; and

4           WHEREAS, Soon after his birth in Hereford in 1914, he moved  
5 with his parents to Greenville and later to Kaufman, where he  
6 attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1930 and graduated from high  
7 school two years later; he attended Southern Methodist University  
8 and went on to earn a degree from Texas Tech University; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas joined the U.S. Army Air Forces one week  
10 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, became an  
11 instructor at the Sheppard Field aircraft mechanics school in  
12 Wichita Falls, and volunteered for the B-29 flight engineers  
13 school; his plane was shot down during his 17th bombing mission over  
14 Japan, and he spent time as a prisoner of war at Omori Prison Camp on  
15 an island in Tokyo Bay until August 1945; from his hospital ship, he  
16 witnessed the Japanese signing of the treaty of surrender on  
17 September 2, 1945; and

18           WHEREAS, For his meritorious service during World War II, he  
19 was awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, Prisoner  
20 of War Medal, Air Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, and Unit Citation;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, On his return to the states, Mr. Thomas founded  
23 Thomas Brothers Office Outfitters in Lubbock with his brother,  
24 Hughes, which he operated until his retirement in 1991; and

1           WHEREAS, He shared a fulfilling relationship with his wife,  
2 the former Melba Watson, until the time of her passing in 1994; and

3           WHEREAS, In addition to his contributions as a business  
4 owner, Mr. Thomas was a member of the Texas Good Roads Association,  
5 and he previously served as chair of the highways, streets, and  
6 roads committee of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce; he was also a  
7 member of the Rotary Club, First United Methodist Church, and Phi  
8 Kappa Psi Fraternity; and

9           WHEREAS, Oliver Thomas lived a purposeful life of service to  
10 his community, state, and nation, and he will be remembered with  
11 deep affection by all who were fortunate enough to share in his love  
12 and friendship; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Oliver Clark Thomas and extend  
15 deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his stepson,  
16 Dr. Ray Moore; to his sisters-in-law, Kay Fulton and Joyce Woods;  
17 and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

18           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
20 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
21 Oliver Clark Thomas.