

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 424

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and  
2 meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends  
3 of Ben Randle, Jr., of San Antonio, who passed away on December 4,  
4 2008, at the age of 83; and

5           WHEREAS, Ben Randle, Jr., was born to Ben and Carrie Randle of  
6 Wichita Falls on April 25, 1925; he graduated from Peabody High  
7 School in Hillsboro and joined Wade Chapel at a young age, beginning  
8 what would become a lifelong association with the African Methodist  
9 Episcopal Church; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Randle answered his nation's call to duty by  
11 joining the U.S. Navy in September 1943, and he was decorated  
12 several times for his valor in the Pacific theater; he enrolled in  
13 Langston University after the war and met the former Rita Belle  
14 Cotton, with whom he would enjoy more than 57 years of loving  
15 marriage; Mr. Randle earned a bachelor of science degree in  
16 industrial arts and lettered in band at Langston, and he furthered  
17 his education with postgraduate work at Oklahoma State University  
18 and the University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio; and

19           WHEREAS, After leaving college, Mr. Randle taught industrial  
20 arts and band in Oklahoma; a few years later, he returned to serve  
21 the armed forces as a jet engine instructor for the U.S. Air Force,  
22 earning his master instructor rating and going on to obtain his  
23 instructor of instructors license at Chanute Air Force Base in  
24 Illinois; Mr. Randle began teaching for the education department of

1 the air force in 1967 and continued in that capacity until his  
2 retirement in 1986, having served for more than three decades and  
3 earned multiple Civilian of the Year awards; and

4 WHEREAS, An expert mentor with a natural gift for imparting  
5 life's lessons, Mr. Randle counseled troubled children and adults  
6 throughout his life; following his retirement, he lent his talents  
7 to the San Antonio Alliance of Business, helping facilitate  
8 employment for at-risk individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Randle was also an avid airman, belonging to the  
10 Air Force Aerial Club and the Bronze Eagles Flying Club of Texas,  
11 and he worked extensively with the Bronze Eagles and the  
12 Davis-Scott YMCA to interest minority youth in the field of flying;  
13 he loved gardening and frequently gave his vegetables to friends  
14 and neighbors, and he was a master of the tenor saxophone who at one  
15 time led his own jazz ensemble; and

16 WHEREAS, This notable Texan was a longstanding member of the  
17 Bronze Eagles, the Black Pilots Association, and the Sunset Hunting  
18 and Fishing Club, and he spent five decades as a scoutmaster and  
19 scout council member with the Boy Scouts of America; he was a member  
20 of Bethel A.M.E. Church in San Antonio, where he worked diligently  
21 for the scout ministry, and was a former leader of the San Antonio  
22 chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and

23 WHEREAS, Beloved by his family and friends, Ben Randle was  
24 respected by all who knew him, and although he is deeply missed, his  
25 spirit lives on through the many positive contributions he made in  
26 service to others; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ben Randle, Jr., and  
2 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,  
3 Rita Belle Cotton Randle; to his cousins; to his nieces; and to his  
4 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

5       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
7 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ben Randle,  
8 Jr.