

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 727

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The long and productive life of an esteemed Texan
2 drew to a close with the passing of Donald Devaughn Whitefield of
3 Houston on July 25, 2008, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on December 11, 1921, in Bellaire, Ohio, Mr.
5 Whitefield was educated in Ohio and Michigan and was active in
6 school debate and band organizations during his youth; in the
7 dramatic years of World War II, he answered his nation's call to
8 duty and completed training as a navigator for B-24 aircraft at
9 Ellington Air Force Base in Houston, where he met his future bride;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, This brave airman was sent to England and undertook
12 the perilous duty of flying bombing runs over Europe with the 492nd,
13 45th, and 445th Bomb Groups; he ultimately survived 30 missions,
14 including one of the most disastrous aerial raids of the war, in
15 which 31 of 35 Allied planes were lost; in recognition of his
16 exemplary service, he received two Distinguished Flying Crosses,
17 the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Croix de Guerre;
18 his skill as an aviator was also recognized during the Korean War,
19 when he was recalled to active duty as a navigation instructor; and

20 WHEREAS, When his service in World War II ended, Mr.
21 Whitefield worked with his father in Ohio before he and his wife,
22 Billie, moved back to Houston; a self-taught chemist, he began
23 experimenting with polyurethane in his home laboratory and
24 developed a method of casting the substance for use in oil field

1 equipment; this development led to the founding of Whitefield
2 Plastics, which is now run by his son, Bill; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Whitefield was deeply interested in the civic
4 affairs of the Lone Star State and was active in promoting the
5 Republican Party; in 1974, he won his party's nomination for the
6 District 8 seat in the United States House of Representatives and
7 ran unsuccessfully against the Democratic incumbent; he also
8 devoted time to a number of other organizations, including the
9 Houston Highlander Bagpipe Band, which he served as president and
10 drum major, the Heather and Thistle Society, Veterans of Foreign
11 Wars Post No. 8790 in Spring Branch, and the Second Air Division
12 Association; and

13 WHEREAS, A member of the generation that faced the challenges
14 of World War II and helped to build a prosperous nation in the
15 decades that followed, Donald Whitefield had an enduring impact on
16 the world around him, and his many achievements will continue to be
17 a source of inspiration for all who had the pleasure of knowing him;
18 now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Donald D. Whitefield
21 and extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his
22 wife of 65 years, Billie Whitefield; to his children, Patricia
23 Schwertner and her husband, Ron, and William H. Whitefield and his
24 wife, Janeal; to his grandchildren, Ryan Schwertner and his wife,
25 Rachael, Erin Schwertner, Adam Schwertner, Nickolas Currie and his
26 wife, Laura, Patrice Currie, Laura Currie, Diana Currie, and Dr.
27 Jenks Currie and his wife, Erica; to his great-grandchildren,

H.R. No. 727

1 Allison and Samuel Schwertner and Ann Katherine and Garner Currie;
2 and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Donald
6 Whitefield.