

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 1514

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A generous and productive life drew to a close with
2 the death of Waco civic leader Thomas Champe Fitzhugh, Jr., on April
3 3, 2009, at the age of 92; and

4 WHEREAS, Champe Fitzhugh was born in San Antonio on March 14,
5 1917, and moved to Waco with his family after the first World War;
6 he graduated from Texas A&M University and worked for the Texas
7 Insurance Department and as an engineering instructor at the
8 University of Missouri; he married the former Edna Hosey in 1939,
9 and the couple shared a rewarding relationship until her passing;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Fitzhugh served his country in the United States
12 Army during World War II and remained in the reserves until his
13 retirement as a lieutenant colonel; after the war, he joined the
14 family business, Fitzhugh & Company, eventually becoming chairman
15 of the board and earning great distinction in the independent
16 insurance industry; his many leadership roles included chairing
17 PACER, the national agency advisory council of CNA, and the
18 property committee of the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas; in
19 addition, he served on a variety of other committees and on the
20 board of IIAT, which gave him its highest honor, the Drex Foreman
21 Award; he was one of only eight men to receive the designation
22 Professional Insurance Man of Texas; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2000, Mr. Fitzhugh sold the company and, at the
24 age of 86, founded Fitzhugh Insurance & Bonds, where he typically

1 worked from 7:30 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m.; he did keep shorter hours on
2 Tuesdays during the school year, when he tutored elementary
3 students in reading; he also assisted Storybook Christmas, a
4 program providing free books to children in need; moreover, he
5 chaired the education committee of the Waco Chamber of Commerce and
6 served on the study committee that recommended the establishment of
7 McLennan Community College, and through the years he funded
8 scholarships and books for many MCC students; in 2007, the
9 Independent Insurance Agents of Central Texas created an MCC
10 Foundation scholarship in his honor; since 1992, more than 500
11 National Merit Scholars at Texas A&M have attended the Champe
12 Fitzhugh International Honors Leadership Program in Italy; and

13 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan served as president of the Waco
14 Independent School District Board, the Salvation Army Advisory
15 Board, the Waco Council of Campfire Girls, the Community Cancer
16 Society, and of a number of other organizations; among his myriad
17 contributions to the community, he served as vice president of the
18 Waco Junior Chamber of Commerce and as secretary for the board of
19 the Waco chapter of the American Red Cross, and in 1947, he
20 instigated the vote to return Waco to a city manager form of
21 government; and

22 WHEREAS, A 70-year member of J. H. Gurley Masonic Lodge No.
23 337 and Karem Shrine, Mr. Fitzhugh belonged to the Rotary Club and
24 Sons of the American Revolution, was a docent of the Historic Waco
25 Foundation, and served his place of worship, St. Alban's Episcopal
26 Church, in several capacities; while fulfilling innumerable
27 responsibilities, he still found time to develop his talent as a

1 gardener and to show his love for his family through regular phone
2 calls and letters; his warmth, kindness, and delightful sense of
3 humor endeared him to everyone; and

4 WHEREAS, Champe Fitzhugh touched countless lives through his
5 selfless endeavors, and his memory will forever remain in the
6 hearts of all who were fortunate enough to know this remarkable man;
7 now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Champe Fitzhugh, Jr.,
10 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
11 wife of 39 years, Virginia Fitzhugh; to his daughters, Randy Ford
12 and her husband, Glenn, Wendy Crowley and her husband, David,
13 Virginia Blakley and her husband, Richard; to his sons, Tom
14 Fitzhugh and his wife, Jan, and Bill Smith and his partner, Jewel
15 Logan; to his grandchildren, Mike Ford and his wife, Katy, Matthew
16 Ford and his wife, Janet, Megan Fulbright and her husband, Donald,
17 Lee Harris, Kendall Condit and her husband, Brian, Collin Holz and
18 her husband, Jason, Carrie Fulghum and her husband, Bob, Keller
19 Crowley, Champe Fitzhugh IV and his wife, Katie, Lindley Amarantos
20 and her husband, Christo, Leigh Smith, Will Blakley and his wife,
21 Heidi, and Conner Blakley and his wife, Molly; to his 12
22 great-grandchildren and his 4 great-great-grandchildren; and to
23 his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Thomas
27 Champe Fitzhugh, Jr.