

By: Castro

H.R. No. 2061

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of San Antonio lost a distinguished citizen  
2 with the death of General Robert Tralles Herres on July 24, 2008, at  
3 the age of 75; and

4           WHEREAS, Robert Herres was born in Denver in 1932 to F.  
5 Willard and Edna Herres; after graduating from the U.S. Naval  
6 Academy in 1954, he entered the U.S. Air Force; and

7           WHEREAS, This outstanding officer's early career in the Air  
8 Force included assignments as a fighter pilot, an air electronics  
9 maintenance officer, a flying instructor, and a technical  
10 intelligence analyst; and

11           WHEREAS, After graduating from the Aerospace Research Pilot  
12 School, General Herres was assigned to the Manned Orbiting  
13 Laboratory as a crew member in 1967; he went on to command the 449th  
14 Bombardment Wing, the 310th Strategic Wing, the Air Force  
15 Communications Command, and the 8th Air Force of the Strategic Air  
16 Command; and

17           WHEREAS, General Herres became commander of the North  
18 American Aerospace Defense Command and the U.S. Air Force Space  
19 Command in 1984, and the following year he became the first  
20 commander-in-chief of the U.S. Space Command; in 1987, he became  
21 vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the second-ranking  
22 officer in the U.S. military, a position he held until his  
23 retirement in 1990; and

24           WHEREAS, Over the course of his exemplary military career,

1 General Herres earned the Bronze Star, the Defense Distinguished  
2 Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit  
3 with oak leaf cluster, and many other commendations; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1990, General Herres went to work for USAA in San  
5 Antonio, becoming chair and CEO of the company in 1993, and he  
6 expanded coverage to encompass enlisted men and women before  
7 retiring in 2002; he benefited many worthy organizations with his  
8 leadership as well, serving on the national boards of the Boy Scouts  
9 of America, Junior Achievement, and the U.S. Naval Academy  
10 Foundation; he led the annual campaign for the United Way of San  
11 Antonio and Bexar County, and he also served on the boards of VRTX  
12 Technologies, Trinity University, and Austin Presbyterian Seminary  
13 and was an elder at First Presbyterian Church; and

14 WHEREAS, Robert Herres dedicated his life to the service of  
15 his fellow citizens, and memories of this remarkable man will live  
16 forever in the hearts of all those who were privileged to know him;  
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of General Robert T.  
20 Herres and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family,  
21 whom he deeply loved: to his wife of 51 years, Shirley Herres; to  
22 his children, Julie Latenser, Michael Herres, and Jennifer Babeon;  
23 to his 10 grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends;  
24 and, be it further

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

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1 Herres.