

By: Margo

H.R. No. 224

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of U.S.  
2 Army Colonel (Ret.) James Lloyd Hayden of El Paso, who passed away  
3 on June 7, 2011, at the age of 87; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in New York on August 14, 1923, "Buster" Hayden  
5 was the son, grandson, and great-grandson of U.S. Military Academy  
6 graduates; he spent his early years at West Point, while his father  
7 was an instructor there, and he later returned to the academy as a  
8 member of the Class of 1945; and

9           WHEREAS, Colonel Hayden's first assignment was with the  
10 postwar occupation force in Germany; he later served as a battery  
11 commander during the Korean War, commanded two battalions in  
12 Germany, and held key posts in the Pentagon and with the Joint  
13 Chiefs of Staff; he retired in 1975 as chief of tactics at Fort  
14 Bliss, concluding a distinguished 30-year military career; and

15           WHEREAS, Retirement scarcely marked the end of Colonel  
16 Hayden's service to the army or to this country, however; in 1976 he  
17 became a West Point admissions representative, a post he held until  
18 just a few days before his death; for the past 15 years he also  
19 chaired the Military Academy Advisory Board for Congressman  
20 Silvestre Reyes; and

21           WHEREAS, In his volunteer role assisting the West Point  
22 admissions office, Colonel Hayden spent countless hours  
23 interviewing and counseling prospective cadets and their families;  
24 he continued to stay in contact with students even after their

1 admission to the academy, offering support and encouragement, and  
2 in many cases he followed their careers after graduation;  
3 altogether, Colonel Hayden worked with more than 600 cadets, a  
4 number reportedly unsurpassed by any other admissions  
5 representative; and

6 WHEREAS, Among the El Paso students whose ability Colonel  
7 Hayden recognized and whom he helped to steer toward West Point are  
8 Major General Dana Pittard, who currently serves as the commander  
9 of Fort Bliss, and Brigadier General Heidi Brown, who has just been  
10 named the deputy commander of test and assessment for the Missile  
11 Defense Agency in Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel Hayden gave generously of his time and  
13 talents in behalf of many other worthy causes as well; he served as  
14 a member of the West Point Association of Graduates Board of  
15 Trustees and as president of the Fort Bliss West Point Alumni  
16 Association, founded the West Point Parents Club of El Paso, and sat  
17 on numerous boards and committees; and

18 WHEREAS, Repeatedly recognized for his exceptional  
19 contributions, Colonel Hayden was a recipient of the prestigious  
20 West Point Distinguished Graduate Award and the first recipient of  
21 the USMA Admissions Distinguished Service Award; the secretary of  
22 the army presented him with the Department of the Army Decoration  
23 for Exceptional Civilian Service, and in 2010 the Colonel James  
24 Hayden Hall, new home to the 31st ADA Brigade headquarters, was  
25 dedicated in his honor at Fort Sill; the mayor of El Paso also  
26 conferred on him the city's highest honor, the Conquistador Award;  
27 and

1           WHEREAS, James Hayden and his wife, the former Eoline T.  
2 "Sugar" Thompson, exchanged their wedding vows on October 17, 1947,  
3 on Governor's Island, New York; they shared a deeply rewarding  
4 union, and over the years they became the proud parents of a son and  
5 five daughters; and

6           WHEREAS, An exceptional leader, Colonel Hayden was held in  
7 the greatest respect for his unshakeable integrity, keen analytical  
8 mind, and genuine concern for others; hundreds of young Texans  
9 developed into capable leaders themselves with the aid of his wise  
10 counsel, and his transformative influence will live on through  
11 them, as it will through all those whose lives he touched and  
12 enriched; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
14 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory  
15 of Colonel (Ret.) James Lloyd Hayden and extend sincere sympathy to  
16 the members of his family: to his wife of 64 years, Sugar Hayden; to  
17 his 6 children and their spouses; to his 16 grandchildren and 11  
18 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends; and,  
19 be it further

20           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Colonel  
23 (Ret.) James Lloyd Hayden.