

By: King of Taylor

H.C.R. No. 76

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Countless lives were touched by the inspiring faith  
2 and leadership of William B. Decker of Abilene, who passed away on  
3 November 13, 2010, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Laura and John Decker, Bill Decker was  
5 born in Wichita Falls on July 20, 1926; he enrolled at Abilene  
6 Christian University in 1943 but interrupted his education after  
7 his freshman year to serve in the U.S. Navy during World War II; he  
8 returned to ACU after the war, served as student body president his  
9 senior year, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Greek New  
10 Testament studies in 1949; he earned a master's degree from Butler  
11 University in Indiana two years later; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1953, Mr. Decker returned to Abilene Christian  
13 University, where he would spend the next 37 years; initially  
14 employed as an instructor and barracks supervisor, he went on to  
15 serve as an assistant professor in the Bible department for 10  
16 years; he later worked as director of public relations and as an  
17 estate planner in the development office; he subsequently returned  
18 to the Bible department, where he taught Greek and New Testament  
19 studies until his retirement in 1990; in honor of his distinguished  
20 service, he was named an Outstanding Faculty Member in 1986; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the course of his life, Mr. Decker preached  
22 throughout Texas and in Indiana, California, and New Mexico, and he  
23 was a longtime elder at Abilene's University Church of Christ;  
24 moreover, he was a strong supporter of missionary work in Central

1 and South America; and

2 WHEREAS, For 61 years, he enjoyed the love and support of his  
3 wife, the former Mary Jo "Jody" Carter; together they raised four  
4 treasured children and shared in the joy of welcoming 13  
5 grandchildren into their family; and

6 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan will be deeply missed by those  
7 who were privileged to know him, but his selfless contributions  
8 will continue to resonate at Abilene Christian University and  
9 beyond for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby pay tribute to the life of William B. Decker and extend  
12 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Jody  
13 Decker; to his children, Roma Freeman and her husband, Ray, Major  
14 (Ret.) Bill Decker and his wife, Kathy, Lisa Webb and her husband,  
15 Tom, and Cindy Isenhower and her husband, Donald; to his  
16 grandchildren, Randy Freeman, Robby Freeman, Julie Freeman Haney  
17 and her husband, Robert, First Lieutenant Andrew Freeman, First  
18 Lieutenant B. Alan Decker, Jr., Ashley Decker Hughes and her  
19 husband, Scott, Sarah Webb Rude and her husband, Jason, Thomas  
20 Webb, Laura Webb, Stacey Webb, Larry Isenhower and his wife, Julee,  
21 Anna Isenhower, and Roberta Isenhower; to his sister, Vera  
22 Boatwright; to his brother-in-law, James Carter and his wife,  
23 Wynetta; and to 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 and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
27 William B. Decker.