

By: Kuempel

H.C.R. No. 120

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and  
2 meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends  
3 of Thomas Peter Whalen of Schertz, who passed away on July 30, 2010,  
4 at the age of 87; and

5           WHEREAS, One of seven children, Tom Whalen was born on  
6 December 3, 1922, in Hoboken, New Jersey, to Peter and Mary Goggin  
7 Whalen; he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and spent more than  
8 three years in the Pacific theater, serving mostly on the  
9 minesweeper USS *YMS-365*; after World War II, he married the former  
10 Rita Garille, with whom he would go on to raise six children,  
11 Daniel, Christine, Mary, Philip, Regina, and Ken, and share more  
12 than six decades; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Whalen reenlisted in the Navy in 1946, and  
14 through the years, he was stationed in California, Saipan, Cuba,  
15 Rhode Island, and Florida; trained as an electrician, he served on  
16 the aircraft carrier USS *Shangri-La*, the ammunition ship USS *Mauna*  
17 *Loa*, and the cargo ship USS *Jupiter*; he retired in 1964 with the  
18 rank of Chief Petty Officer; and

19           WHEREAS, Along with his family, Mr. Whalen settled in Tampa,  
20 Florida, where he worked as a journeyman electrician at Florida  
21 Steel; in 1972, the Whalens moved to Schertz, and Mr. Whalen became  
22 the maintenance supervisor at Structural Metals in Seguin; he had  
23 several other jobs before retiring for good in his seventies; and

24           WHEREAS, Mr. Whalen was a longtime member of the Knights of

1 Columbus Council 6358; he was active in the group's charitable  
2 works, served as Grand Knight in 1975, and eventually attained the  
3 rank of Fourth Degree; moreover, he contributed his time and energy  
4 as a volunteer at Brooke Army Medical Center for many years; among  
5 his favorite pastimes were fishing, boating, and eating seafood at  
6 the Texas coast; and

7 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known Tom Whalen will  
8 remember the way he touched their lives with his optimism, sense of  
9 humor, and devotion to his family, and he will forever hold a  
10 treasured place in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Thomas Peter Whalen and extend  
13 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Rita  
14 Whalen; to his children, Daniel Whalen and his wife, Maureen Behan,  
15 Christine Young and her husband, Michael, Mary Swift, Philip Whalen  
16 and his wife, Daria, Regina Maxfield and her husband, Mike, and Ken  
17 Whalen and his wife, Jackie; to his sister, Margaret Kurz; to his  
18 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives  
19 and friends; and, 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 and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
23 Tom Whalen.