

By: Hughes

H.C.R. No. 157

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A golden wedding anniversary signifies a love that
2 has stood the test of time, and five decades after exchanging their
3 vows of matrimony, Bill and Marlana Terry are being honored by a
4 host of family and friends at a party on May 29, 2011, in Longview;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The son of Thomas Morrell Terry and Zora Esther
7 Eppler Terry, William Eppler Terry was born and raised in Cisco,
8 while the former Marlana Morine Raley Smith was born in Veribest and
9 raised in Junction, the daughter of James "Cot" Olan Raley and
10 Wilhelmina Alma Marie Spieker Raley; the pair met at the First
11 Methodist Church in Bronte, where they attended with their spouses
12 and children, and their families shared many happy times together
13 at church and scouting activities; life took a difficult turn when
14 their spouses became seriously ill, and during that challenging
15 time they each stood steadfastly by their mates, demonstrating a
16 loyalty that engendered a deep respect in one another; and

17 WHEREAS, After the death of her husband, Marlana Smith spent
18 time with a group of widows known as the "seven angels," and Mr.
19 Terry recalls that his future wife was the prettiest of them all; to
20 provide for her family, she went to work in Bronte at Henry's Fast
21 Food and Grocery, from which Mr. Terry claims he "rescued" her; he
22 began stopping by regularly to visit with her on her coffee breaks,
23 and in late 1960 the couple went on their first date, an excursion
24 to San Angelo; most of their dates, however, consisted of their

1 driving around together on his night shift, while he checked wells;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The couple soon fell in love, and on May 29, 1961,
4 they were joined in marriage in a ceremony officiated by A. Lin
5 Leoffler at the First Methodist Church in Bronte; their attendants
6 included the bride's friend, Jean Sheppard, as maid of honor and the
7 groom's cousin, Glen Campbell, as best man; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Terry and their blended family moved to
9 Anson after their wedding and relocated to White Oak four years
10 later; their children are Stephen Dennis Terry and his wife, Susan,
11 James Huey Smith and his wife, Joanne, Patricia Ann Smith Owens and
12 her husband, Raymond, Gary Don Smith and his wife, Joy, Richard
13 Wayne Smith and his wife, Sharon, Barbara Ruth Smith Boone, Mollie
14 Jeanette Smith Upton and her husband, Paul, and the late Allen
15 Michael Terry; through the years, Bill and Marlina Terry have
16 become grandparents 19 times over, to Danny, Joey, Rusty, Billy
17 Bob, and Cody Terry, Homer, Jason, and Miranda Owens, Mandy Munoz,
18 Krystal, Kelli, E. J., Jeb, and Neely Smith, Dustin, Dexter, and
19 Dakota Upton, Leslie Wilhelm, and the late James Huey Smith, Jr.;
20 their treasured family has also grown to include 24
21 great-grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, Now retired, Mr. Terry from ExxonMobil and Mrs.
23 Terry from Abercrombie Printing Company, the couple are valued
24 congregants of White Oak United Methodist Church and former
25 volunteers with Meals on Wheels; Mrs. Terry is a longtime member of
26 the Order of the Eastern Star, and Mr. Terry is a 32nd degree Mason,
27 a U.S. Navy veteran, and a Purple Heart recipient who gives talks to

1 schoolchildren about his wartime experience at Pearl Harbor, a
2 subject about which he has been interviewed by newspaper and
3 television reporters; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Terry have enjoyed five decades of
5 abiding love and affection for one another, and they are among an
6 exceptional group of men and women who can claim such a lasting
7 commitment; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby congratulate Bill and Marlana Terry on the occasion of their
10 golden wedding anniversary and extend to them sincere best wishes
11 for continued happiness; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the couple as an expression of high regard by the Texas
14 House of Representatives and Senate.