

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 329

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of Hunt lost an admired resident and  
2 community leader with the death of Silas B. Ragsdale, Jr., on  
3 January 5, 2011, at the age of 86; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of Galveston, "Si" Ragsdale was born on  
5 September 15, 1924, to Silas and Sadie Ragsdale; he graduated from  
6 Ball High School and attended Castle Heights Military Academy,  
7 earning the rank of first lieutenant; he went on to serve this  
8 nation as an army captain in World War II, and he was awarded the  
9 Bronze Star for his courageous service during the Normandy  
10 invasion; and

11           WHEREAS, Returning to civilian life, Mr. Ragsdale drew on his  
12 longtime love of camping to develop his career; he directed Camp  
13 Fern in Marshall for five summers and later worked year-round as  
14 director of Camp Rio Vista and program director of Texas Lion's Camp  
15 in Kerrville; in 1966, he and his wife, Kathy, purchased Camp  
16 Stewart, and in 1987, they acquired Heart O' the Hills Camp for  
17 Girls; and

18           WHEREAS, Mr. Ragsdale was a leader in his field; in addition  
19 to serving as president of the National Camping Advisory Council,  
20 he was a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Youth Camp  
21 Safety, a founding member and president of the Camping Association  
22 for Mutual Progress, and a member-at-large on the American Camping  
23 Association National Camping Council for Private Independent  
24 Camps; and

1           WHEREAS, Active in his state and community as well, he served  
2 on the board of the Texas Chamber of Commerce and on the foundation  
3 board of Texas Woman's University, the alma mater of his mother,  
4 wife, and daughters; his own alma mater, The University of Texas at  
5 Austin, benefited from his life membership with the alumni  
6 association, the Texas Exes, and his work with the Delta Tau Delta  
7 fraternity earned him appointment to the group's Distinguished  
8 Service Chapter; he also helped to establish Leadership Kerr  
9 County, and his efforts were recognized with the title of Kerr  
10 County Legend, awarded to him by the Kerrville Area Chamber of  
11 Commerce in 2008; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Ragsdale attended the First Presbyterian Church  
13 of Kerrville and contributed to the congregation as an elder;  
14 moreover, he chaired the board of trustees for Mo-Ranch and served  
15 on the Texas Presbyterian Foundation Board; and

16           WHEREAS, Si Ragsdale enjoyed a life that was rich in the  
17 intangibles that matter most, and he is deeply missed by all those  
18 who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

19           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Silas B. Ragsdale,  
21 Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to  
22 his wife, Kathy Coffey Ragsdale; to his sons, Jon Ragsdale and his  
23 wife, Janet, and Silas "Jeepers" Ragsdale III and his wife,  
24 Meredith; to his daughters, Jane Howell and her husband, Dick, and  
25 Juli Ragsdale and Levvy Carriker; to his grandchildren, Silas Deen  
26 Howell, Silas Ragsdale IV, and Catherine Ragsdale; to his sister,  
27 Joan Ragsdale Baskin; and to his other relatives and friends; and,

1 be it further

2           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Silas B.  
5 Ragsdale, Jr.