

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 638

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of Mineola lost one of its most beloved  
2 residents with the death of Carl Lester Merritt on January 28, 2011,  
3 at the age of 89; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on February 15, 1921, in Calvary, Georgia, to  
5 L. O. and Lilly Merritt, Mr. Merritt graduated from the University  
6 of Georgia at the age of 20 with degrees in genetics, agriculture,  
7 and education; shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he  
8 answered his nation's call to duty and joined the United States  
9 Navy, which put his valuable knowledge and experience as a licensed  
10 pilot to use by making him a flight instructor; at the end of the  
11 war, he was discharged from the navy with the rank of lieutenant  
12 commander; and

13           WHEREAS, While serving at the Naval Air Station in Dallas,  
14 Mr. Merritt met Virginia Puckett, whom he married in 1944; the  
15 couple settled in Mineola, where they enjoyed many loving and  
16 rewarding years together until her passing; they were blessed with  
17 three children, Kevin, Linda, and Louise, as well as six  
18 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

19           WHEREAS, After returning to civilian life and moving to  
20 Mineola, Mr. Merritt opened Merritt's Hardware and Feed Store and  
21 embarked on a successful business career; in 1949 he purchased the  
22 Sinclair Wholesale Warehouse and began selling gasoline and other  
23 supplies to farms and gas stations; he sold that company in 1955 to  
24 become an American Petrofina wholesaler, and he eventually owned

1 and operated 21 Fina service stations in the area; after his  
2 retirement in 1981, he continued to work as a rancher; and

3         WHEREAS, Active in his community, Mr. Merritt served a term  
4 as director of the Mineola Chamber of Commerce and two terms on the  
5 school board, and in 1952 he helped to found the Mineola Lions Club;  
6 he received many honors during his nearly six decades with the club,  
7 including the Chevron Award for 55 years of service, the Melvin  
8 Jones Fellowship, and recognition as a life member of the Texas  
9 Lions Camp; in addition, he was a Master Mason and a Shriner, a  
10 member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a congregant of  
11 Hainesville Baptist Church; and

12         WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan volunteered much of his time to  
13 mentoring young people, especially through youth sports; known  
14 around the area as "Mr. Baseball," he worked with children as a  
15 baseball coach and umpire, and he was always available to help drive  
16 kids to and from practice and games, ensuring that they could  
17 participate; he served as president of both the Mineola Youth  
18 Foundation and the Greater Wood County Baseball/Softball  
19 Association, and for 18 years he was a state director of the Texas  
20 Teenage Baseball-Softball Association; and

21         WHEREAS, Mr. Merritt was deeply devoted to his family, and he  
22 enjoyed taking his children, grandchildren, and  
23 great-grandchildren to his Lions Club meetings; he also relished  
24 the hours he spent outdoors hunting and fishing; and

25         WHEREAS, A respected community leader and a gentleman, Carl  
26 Merritt lived a rich and productive life, and he will long be  
27 remembered with deep affection by all those who knew him; now,

1 therefore, be it

2           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Carl Lester Merritt  
4 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
5 son, Kevin Merritt, and his wife, Mary; to his daughters, Louise  
6 King and her husband, Dr. Joe Mac King, and Linda Merritt Standley;  
7 to his grandchildren, Lance Standley and his wife, Sherly, Ryan and  
8 Rachel King, and Thomas, Sarah, and Jenna Merritt; to his  
9 great-grandchildren, Ellas, Tatum, and Farrah Standley; to his  
10 sister, Gladys Wray; to his sisters-in-law, Janelle Merritt and  
11 Anice Merritt; to his brother-in-law, Charles Puckett; and to his  
12 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

13           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carl Lester  
16 Merritt.