

By: Orr

H.R. No. 1019

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life filled with notable accomplishments and  
2 meaningful service drew to a close with the passing of the Honorable  
3 Charles D. Kirkham, Jr., of Cleburne on April 16, 2010, at the age  
4 of 84; and

5           WHEREAS, Charles Kirkham was born in Cleburne on July 28,  
6 1925, to Charles D. Kirkham, Sr., and Mary Ellen Payne Kirkham;  
7 after graduating from Cleburne High School in 1943, he served with  
8 the 94th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army during World War II, and  
9 his valiant actions were recognized with the Purple Heart, the  
10 Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Bronze Star; and

11           WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Kirkham continued his education  
12 at Texas A&M University, becoming president of the student senate  
13 and earning his degree in 1950; he went on to establish a successful  
14 career with Merrill Lynch and retired as a vice president after 45  
15 years with the company; and

16           WHEREAS, Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr.  
17 Kirkham dedicated himself to public service and to addressing  
18 important issues in his state; in 1954, voters in Cleburne and  
19 Johnson County elected him to the Texas House of Representatives,  
20 and he was a member of the 53rd and 54th Texas Legislatures; in  
21 addition, he was chair of the Texas Good Roads/Transportation  
22 Association, and he earned the prestigious Road Hand Award from the  
23 Texas Transportation Commission in 1993; and

24           WHEREAS, His leadership skills were also put to good use in

1 his service as Texas chair of the Employer Support of the Guard and  
2 Reserve organization and as a member of the board of the Texas A&M  
3 University Association of Former Students; moreover, he was a  
4 founding member of the Dallas Friday Group and a congregant of  
5 Highland Park Presbyterian Church; and

6 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to nation, his community, and his  
7 family, Charles Kirkham made a positive difference in the lives of  
8 his loved ones and fellow citizens alike, and his contributions  
9 will be remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be  
10 it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Charles D. Kirkham,  
13 Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to  
14 his sons, Chad Kirkham and his wife, Leanne, and Colin Kirkham and  
15 his wife, Allison; to his daughter, Cathy Burhen; to his  
16 grandchildren, Paris Burhen, Pallas Burhen, Paige Kirkham, Jack  
17 Kirkham, and Chad Kirkham; to his sister, Wilma Kirkham Reed; to his  
18 nieces, Karen Malone and Sylvia Massey; 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 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Charles  
23 Kirkham.