

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 1064

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a distinguished native son
2 with the death of Charles T. McDowell of Arlington on July 8, 2007;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Born on November 23, 1921, to Jesse Calvin and Alva
5 Lange McDowell, Charles Taylor McDowell was raised in San Saba; he
6 graduated from Texas A&M University in 1943 and attended officer
7 candidate school at Fort Benning, Georgia, before being
8 commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army; a
9 master parachutist, he fought in both the European and Pacific
10 theaters during World War II and later served in the occupational
11 forces in Japan; and

12 WHEREAS, An information and education officer as well as a
13 professor, director, and commandant of Tokyo Army College in the
14 late 1940s, Dr. McDowell also taught Russian language, history,
15 economics, geography, and political science in a classified joint
16 military/civilian intelligence agency in the 1950s before serving
17 as an instructor in Taiwan, Korea, and Hawaii; he continued his
18 studies through various defense intelligence programs and earned a
19 master's degree from Columbia University in 1953 and a doctorate
20 from Texas A&M in 1956; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. McDowell further served his country as an
22 intelligence officer with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and worked
23 closely with the president of the United States to evaluate
24 military threats; he was a custodian of the "nuclear football,"

1 utilized by presidents to authorize the use of nuclear weapons when
2 away from fixed command centers; moreover, he served as a
3 diplomatic courier and USSR specialist, as well as a foreign
4 service officer for the state department in the former Soviet
5 Union, Europe, Asia, and North Africa; and

6 WHEREAS, Eventually retiring from the military at the rank of
7 colonel, Dr. McDowell earned numerous honors for his notable tenure
8 in the armed forces, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Army
9 Commendation Medal, both with oak leaf cluster, and the Combat
10 Infantry Badge, along with medals recognizing service in World War
11 II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts; he was described by General
12 William C. Westmoreland as an outstanding officer; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. McDowell had an equally illustrious career in
14 civilian life, spending more than four decades, in total, at The
15 University of Texas at Arlington; he first joined the school in
16 1960, and after serving as senior area administrator for President
17 Lyndon B. Johnson's Job Corps program, he returned in 1966 as
18 assistant to the president of the university and then dean of
19 student life; a teacher of Russian, he became the chair of the
20 department of foreign languages and linguistics as well as the
21 founder and director of the Center for Post-Soviet and East
22 European Studies; and

23 WHEREAS, The first chair of the faculty senate at UT
24 Arlington, Dr. McDowell was reelected to that post six times; he
25 was an advisor to the Alpha Chi honor society and led annual summer
26 study abroad programs in Russia; he was recognized as an
27 outstanding teacher with awards from UT Arlington and its

1 chancellor's council, and he was inducted into the school's
2 military science hall of honor; after his death, generous donors
3 endowed a new center at the university in his memory, the Charles
4 T. McDowell Center for Critical Languages and Area Studies; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the course of his life, Dr. Charles McDowell
6 met 10 U.S. presidents, traveled to Russia more than 50 times, and
7 ignited the curiosity and interest of countless young people, and
8 he will long be remembered for his notable contributions to the
9 state and nation; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Charles Taylor
12 McDowell and his exemplary record of service to the people of Texas
13 and the United States.