

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 1414

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of William  
2 E. Nelson, Jr., of Waco, who passed away on March 10, 2011, at the  
3 age of 93; and

4           WHEREAS, Bill Nelson was born in Gunter on November 30, 1917,  
5 to William E. Nelson, Sr., and Zula Eveline Caldwell; orphaned at an  
6 early age after his mother contracted tuberculosis, he lived on the  
7 streets and with relatives and foster parents; in spite of these  
8 difficult circumstances, he continued his education and was  
9 president of his class at Celina High School, where he also played  
10 quarterback on the football team; he was recruited to North Texas  
11 State Teachers College on a football scholarship; and

12           WHEREAS, With the outbreak of World War II, Mr. Nelson  
13 volunteered for the United States Army Air Corps; he was a top  
14 turret gunner on a B-24 Liberator and, while stationed in Italy,  
15 participated in 50 bombing missions over Axis countries and  
16 occupied territories, for which he was later decorated; and

17           WHEREAS, Returning stateside, Mr. Nelson went to work for the  
18 Veterans Administration Regional Office in Dallas and then in Waco;  
19 he was dedicated to ensuring his fellow veterans received their  
20 benefits, and he spent 30 years in public service; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson shared 58 happy years with his wife,  
22 Leola, and together they welcomed four children into their family;  
23 the couple were known for their kindness and generosity toward  
24 others and regularly extended themselves, no matter how great the

1 need; Mr. Nelson delighted in working in his garden and observing  
2 the birds and animals in his backyard; moreover, he took enormous  
3 pleasure in the company of his grandchildren; he was an active  
4 member of the First United Methodist Church of Waco; and

5 WHEREAS, A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend,  
6 Bill Nelson will be deeply missed, but the integrity, humility, and  
7 altruism with which he lived his life will forever inspire all who  
8 had the good fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of William E. Nelson,  
11 Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to  
12 his daughters, Constance Pothier and her husband, Tom, and Sally  
13 McGowan and her husband, Bobby; to his son, William E. Nelson III;  
14 to his grandchildren, Jason, Whitney, Sarah, Sean, Alissa, Jon,  
15 Keith, and Michael; and to his other relatives and many friends;  
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William E.  
20 Nelson, Jr.