

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 1464

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of James Rutledge Mason of Waxahachie on March 31, 2011, at
3 the age of 96; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Biardstown in Lamar County on July 13, 1914,
5 Mr. Mason was the son of Luther Emerson Mason and Lila Mae Mason; he
6 graduated from Paris High School in 1931 and attended Paris Junior
7 College before completing his bachelor's degree in business
8 administration at The University of Texas at Austin; on June 1,
9 1940, he married the former Dora Frances Whitehead, and they later
10 became the parents of two children, James and Lila Jean; Mr. and
11 Mrs. Mason shared a fulfilling relationship of more than 60 years
12 before her passing in 2001; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Mason served his country in the United States
14 Army during World War II; a sergeant (E-5), he was stationed in the
15 Pacific theater and landed on Okinawa on April 3, 1945; he served
16 there until the end of the war and received numerous commendations,
17 among them the Rifle and Carbine Expert Medal, the World War II
18 Victory Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two
19 battle stars for the Philippines and Okinawa campaigns; and

20 WHEREAS, A distinguished member of the banking industry for
21 four decades, Mr. Mason began his career as a teller at Paris
22 National Bank in 1936; he was later employed by Liberty State Bank
23 and National City Bank in Dallas; after earning his graduate
24 certificate from the American Institute of Banking with a major in

1 investments in 1955, he went on to receive his diploma with the
2 first graduating class of the Southwestern Graduate School of
3 Banking at Southern Methodist University; he retired in 1976 as
4 vice president of Republic National Bank of Dallas; and

5 WHEREAS, This civic-minded Texan was deeply committed to his
6 community; in addition to volunteering for Meals on Wheels, the
7 Baylor Hospital of Waxahachie Auxiliary, and Pleasant Manor Living
8 Center, he supported such charities as the Salvation Army, the USO,
9 and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and he and his wife worked
10 together with great energy and dedication in behalf of political
11 campaigns; moreover, Mr. Mason was a valued member of Central
12 Presbyterian Church and served his faith as a Sunday school
13 teacher, member of the session, and treasurer; he was also a life
14 member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars; his
15 hobbies included fishing and hunting, and he was a charter fan of
16 the Texas Rangers; and

17 WHEREAS, James Mason made a positive difference in the lives
18 of others, and those who were privileged to share in his love and
19 friendship will forever treasure their memories of his kindness,
20 compassion, and devotion; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of James Rutledge
23 Mason and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family:
24 to his son, Captain James Rutledge Mason, Jr., (United States Navy,
25 Retired), and his wife, Martha; to his daughter, Lila Jean Mason
26 Blackwell, and her husband, Garry; to his grandchildren, James
27 Rutledge Mason III, Garry W. Blackwell, Jr., Jennifer Gail

1 Chauncey, Stephen Mason Blackwell, and Jeffrey Malvin Blackwell; to
2 his great-grandchildren, Reagan, Reeves, Jessica, and Thatcher
3 Blackwell, James Rutledge Mason IV and William Mason, and Brooke,
4 Mason, and Parker Chauncey; and to his other relatives and friends;
5 and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
8 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James
9 Rutledge Mason.