

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 2004

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A man whose remarkable story captured the interest
2 of his fellow citizens, Frank Woodruff Buckles, the last surviving
3 American veteran of World War I, passed away on February 27, 2011,
4 at the age of 110; and

5 WHEREAS, Inspired by recruiting posters, Missouri native
6 Frank Buckles left home in 1917 at the age of 16 to enlist in the
7 military; rejected by the U.S. Marine Corps and the Navy as too
8 young, he was finally accepted into the Army after lying about his
9 age, and he sailed for England on the RMS *Carpathia* later that year;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, He joined the ambulance corps and served in England
12 and France as a driver and a warehouse clerk; though he never made
13 it to the front lines as he had desired, he transported many wounded
14 soldiers to hospitals and saw the heavy toll the war took on the
15 French people; nearly a century later, he still vividly recalled
16 the heartrending scenes he had witnessed; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Buckles worked in the Toronto office of the
18 White Star shipping line after the war, and he traveled around the
19 world on business for various steamship companies; he was in Manila
20 when Japan invaded the Philippines in late 1941, and Japanese
21 forces arrested and imprisoned him for more than three years; and

22 WHEREAS, Liberated by American troops in 1945, Mr. Buckles
23 continued to work in the steamship industry until the mid-1950s,
24 when he purchased and ran a cattle ranch in Charles Town, West

1 Virginia, with his wife, Audrey, and daughter, Susannah; he
2 remained active and involved in the ranch's operation long past the
3 age of 100; and

4 WHEREAS, After receiving the Legion d'honneur from French
5 President Jacques Chirac in 1999, Mr. Buckles entered the public
6 eye due to his extraordinary longevity; sharp and independent
7 throughout his life, he served as grand marshal of the National
8 Memorial Day Parade in Washington in 2007 and was the honorary chair
9 of the World War I Memorial Foundation, which advocated for the
10 rededication of the District of Columbia War Memorial as a national
11 memorial for veterans of World War I; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Buckles was buried with full military honors at
13 Arlington National Cemetery, the last of the 4.7 million Americans
14 who served in World War I; his wife of more than 50 years, Audrey,
15 preceded him in death; he is survived by his daughter, Susannah
16 Flanagan, and her husband, Mike, and also by his cousin, Michael
17 Buckles of Houston, and his wife, Billi Jo, and sons, Jacob and
18 David; and

19 WHEREAS, Coming to symbolize a generation of Americans in
20 their struggles and triumphs, Frank Buckles accepted his iconic
21 status with humility and grace, and he leaves behind a legacy that
22 will continue to resonate for many years to come; now, therefore, be
23 it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
25 Legislature hereby honor the memory of Frank Woodruff Buckles and
26 pay tribute to his extraordinary life; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 2004

1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Frank
3 Buckles.