

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 545

In Memory
of
Homer D. Smith, Jr.

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Major General Homer D. Smith, Jr., who died March 6, 2011, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, General Smith served the nation with honor and distinction in the United States Army for 36 years in an illustrious career that saw him save the lives of thousands of orphans and oversee the evacuation of Saigon at the conclusion of the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Homer D. Smith, Jr., was born February 16, 1922, in Breckenridge; he grew up in Ranger and graduated from Ranger High School before going on to graduate from Texas A&M University in 1943; he was commissioned into the United States Army and served in the European theater during World War II, helping to plan the logistics for the D-Day invasion; and

WHEREAS, Following the war, he returned to civilian life for a short time before reentering military service in 1948; he rose steadily through the ranks and became a respected authority in logistical planning while serving in posts throughout the world, including Germany, Korea, and Italy; and

WHEREAS, General Smith was assigned to Saigon in 1974 as Defense Attaché to the United States Embassy; during his time in Vietnam, he organized Operation Baby-Lift, which evacuated some 2,000 orphans from the country, and managed Operation Frequent Wind, the final evacuation of more than 7,000 American civilians, military personnel, and Vietnamese nationals as the North Vietnamese closed in on Saigon; and

WHEREAS, General Smith went on to serve as commander of the United States Army Logistics Center and as head of the Logistics Directorate at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Brussels, Belgium; over the course of his exemplary career, he was awarded numerous medals and citations, including the Distinguished Service medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; and

WHEREAS, A man of courage, strength, and compassion, he served the nation with integrity and wisdom, and his generous spirit and devotion to duty will not be forgotten by those who were privileged to share in his life; and

WHEREAS, He was a devoted husband and father, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Homer D. Smith, Jr.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Major General Homer D. Smith, Jr.

Van de Putte, Uresti,
Wentworth, Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 16, 2011, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate