

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 977

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life ennobled by courage and years of service to
2 his nation has ended with the death of retired U.S. Army colonel and
3 Medal of Honor recipient James L. Stone of Arlington on November 9,
4 2012, at the age of 89; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of State and Idell Stone, James Lamar Stone
6 was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, on December 27, 1922, and raised
7 in Hot Springs; he studied at the University of Arkansas, where he
8 was a member of the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps; after
9 graduating with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and zoology in
10 1947, he joined the General Electric Company in Houston; he
11 answered his nation's call to duty in 1948, and after receiving
12 training at Fort Ord, was sent to Korea as a first lieutenant with
13 the Eighth Cavalry Regiment of the First Cavalry Division in 1951;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, On November 21, 1951, Lieutenant Stone was
16 commanding a platoon on a hill overlooking the Imjin River when his
17 position came under attack at nine o'clock in the evening by the
18 Chinese Army; throughout the night, Lieutenant Stone and the 48 men
19 in his unit fought a desperate struggle against a force that swelled
20 to approximately 800 attackers; and

21 WHEREAS, After a flamethrower malfunctioned and its operator
22 was killed, Lieutenant Stone repaired it under fire, and then,
23 taking charge of his command's only working machine gun, he moved
24 from position to position to fend off the enemy; with half of his

1 men dead, he ordered the rest to retreat while he remained behind to
2 cover them; in the course of the fighting, he was wounded twice in
3 the leg and once in the neck; and

4 WHEREAS, Near daybreak, Lieutenant Stone and six other
5 wounded Americans were taken prisoner by the Chinese; when American
6 forces recovered the position later that day, they counted 545 dead
7 enemy soldiers; Lieutenant Stone spent 22 months as a prisoner of
8 war before being freed in a prisoner exchange in September 1953; in
9 October of that same year, he was presented with the Medal of Honor
10 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower; and

11 WHEREAS, This brave soldier continued to serve his nation as
12 a career army officer; following a period of time in Germany, he was
13 reassigned to Texas, where he administered ROTC units in the Fort
14 Worth area, and in 1971 he served a tour of duty in Vietnam; after
15 nearly 30 years in the military, he retired at the rank of colonel;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Preceded in death by his first wife, Jane Dickenson
18 Stone, Colonel Stone was fortunate to find love again with his
19 second wife, the former Mary Lou Hickman; he was the father of two
20 sons, James and Ray; and

21 WHEREAS, Colonel Stone settled in Arlington in 1980, and he
22 worked for a time with his son James in a home-building business; he
23 remained involved in the veterans community, playing an active role
24 in Chapter 215 of the Korean War Veterans Association and in the
25 Legion of Valor and taking part in Veterans Day ceremonies every
26 year at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery; he was a keen
27 baseball fan who delighted in attending Texas Rangers games and in

1 watching his grandson, Stewart, play Little League; he was also a
2 valued member of First United Methodist Church of Arlington; and

3 WHEREAS, Representing the highest ideals of our nation's
4 armed forces, Colonel James Stone not only demonstrated remarkable
5 courage on one fateful night, he expressed his devotion to his
6 country through nearly three decades of service, and the example of
7 his life will forever inspire all those who knew and loved him; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Colonel James
11 L. Stone and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
12 family: to his wife, Mary Lou Stone; to his sons, James L. Stone,
13 Jr., and his wife, Mary, and Ray Stone and his wife, Marta; to his
14 grandson, Stewart; to his stepdaughter, Amy Rodriguez, her husband,
15 Oscar, and their children, Blake and Brittany; and to his other
16 relatives and friends; 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 Colonel
20 James L. Stone.