

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost a heroic Texan with the
2 passing of Houston McCoy on December 27, 2012, at the age of 72; and

3 WHEREAS, Houston Roy Chadwick was born in January 1940 in a
4 farmhouse near Menard to Edith Louise Davis and Bill Chadwick; he
5 spent his earliest years on a ranch near Goodfellow Air Force Base
6 in San Angelo, where his fascination with the planes overhead was
7 the beginning of a lifelong love of flying; and

8 WHEREAS, After his mother's remarriage in 1947, he became the
9 adopted son of Les McCoy; he was active in the Boy Scouts and served
10 as an altar boy and lay reader in the Episcopal Church; at Menard
11 High School, he was an honor student and all-district football and
12 basketball player, and his classmates voted him Best All Around Boy
13 and Class Favorite before his graduation in 1958; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. McCoy attended Lamar State College of
15 Technology for six months before he answered his nation's call to
16 duty and joined the U.S. Army; stationed near Stuttgart, Germany,
17 he became a member of a local civilian glider club, soloing for the
18 first time after only five hours of training; and

19 WHEREAS, Returning to Texas in 1962, Mr. McCoy hitchhiked
20 from Menard to Austin with only two dollars in his pocket and joined
21 the Austin Police Department; he married the former Ruth Rosemarie
22 Gebhart the day after he was commissioned as a police officer in
23 July 1963, and during their marriage they were blessed with four
24 children, Kristofer, Stefan, Philip, and Monika; and

1 WHEREAS, Officer McCoy was one of the two men responsible for
2 stopping Charles Whitman, who killed 14 people and wounded 32 on
3 August 1, 1966, from atop The University of Texas Tower; on that
4 fateful day, Officer McCoy and another Austin policeman were the
5 first officers to reach the sniper at the top of the tower, and
6 together they ended his violent rampage; for his heroism, Officer
7 McCoy received the Austin Police Medal of Valor in 1967; and

8 WHEREAS, He left the Austin police force after earning his
9 pilot's license and took a job as a civilian flight instructor with
10 the U.S. Air Force in Del Rio, teaching military students to fly the
11 T-41 primary trainer; the flight school was later relocated to
12 Hondo, and Mr. McCoy moved with his family back to Menard; his
13 piloting skills were well known in the community, and at one point,
14 he was enlisted to rescue a neighbor who was trapped in a flooded
15 ravine; he landed his plane on a country road near the scene of the
16 emergency and then flew the man to a hospital; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1975, Mr. McCoy became the camp ranger at Boy
18 Scout Camp Sol Mayer near Ft. McKavett, allowing him the
19 opportunity to raise his children in the country; the family
20 delighted in fishing, swimming, canoeing, hunting, camping, and
21 horseback riding, among other outdoor pursuits; he also continued
22 to fly, appearing in air shows, working as a crop duster, and giving
23 flight lessons; he retired in 1987; and

24 WHEREAS, Houston McCoy inspired his fellow Texans and all who
25 knew him with his quiet courage, humility, and dedication to duty,
26 and he leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered for years to
27 come; now, therefore, be it

H.R. No. 1023

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Houston McCoy and
3 extend sincere condolences to his many loved ones and friends; and,
4 be it further

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

Hilderbran

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1023 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 27, 2013.

Chief Clerk of the House