

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 1023

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

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.