

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 1173

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Our nation owes a profound debt of gratitude to  
2 those brave men and women who take up arms in defense of liberty,  
3 and one such individual is J. D. Chastain of Hewitt, who served in  
4 the U.S. Navy during World War II; and

5           WHEREAS, Born on a farm in Brown County, Mr. Chastain  
6 graduated from high school in 1942 and went on to attend Howard  
7 Payne University; answering his nation's call to duty, he joined  
8 the U.S. Navy in 1943 and received his basic training at the Great  
9 Lakes Naval Base near Chicago; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Chastain was assigned to an antiaircraft gun on  
11 the *Lexington*-class aircraft carrier the USS *Saratoga*, which was  
12 deployed in the Pacific theater of the war; he participated in the  
13 carrier's missions to provide air support to Allied campaigns in  
14 the Solomon, Gilbert, and Marshall Islands during 1943 and 1944,  
15 and in 1945, he was present at the Battle of Iwo Jima, where the ship  
16 was damaged by a kamikaze attack and forced to return to Hawaii for  
17 repairs; and

18           WHEREAS, On the *Saratoga*, Seaman Chastain endured the  
19 hardships of wartime at sea with good humor, sleeping in a hammock  
20 in a room packed with other men when he wasn't manning his "sky aft"  
21 position 60 feet above the carrier's deck; he learned to survive on  
22 a diet of beans, powdered eggs, and coffee so strong you could stand  
23 a spoon in it, and he took his rest when he could, learning to fall  
24 quickly asleep whenever he was allowed to "take five"; after the

1 *Saratoga* returned to Hawaii, he won promotion and reassignment to a  
2 job tuning up airplanes; he mustered out and returned to Texas in  
3 1946, never having had a day of leave during his entire service; and

4       WHEREAS, Upon completing his education at Howard Payne  
5 University, Mr. Chastain went on to a distinguished career with the  
6 Texas Department of Public Safety, supervising the establishment of  
7 crime laboratories, taking part in the implementation of the FBI's  
8 NCIC criminal records system, and playing a role in establishing  
9 the use of Breathalyzers; he also served as a Brown County  
10 commissioner, and he maintained his ties to the military as a member  
11 of the Naval Reserves; and

12       WHEREAS, During the difficult years of World War II, many  
13 young Americans placed their lives on hold and put themselves at  
14 risk to defend our nation, and J. D. Chastain may indeed take great  
15 pride in being among their number and in his selfless contribution  
16 to the war effort; now, therefore, be it

17       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
18 Legislature hereby honor J. D. Chastain for his service during  
19 World War II and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
20 happiness; and, be it further

21       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for Mr. Chastain as an expression of high regard by the  
23 Texas House of Representatives.