

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Gold Star Mother Oleta Smith of Dumas commemorated
2 the heroic sacrifice of her son during the Vietnam War by
3 representing the families of the fallen at the groundbreaking
4 ceremony for the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Memorial on March
5 25, 2013; and

6 WHEREAS, During an attack on a Special Forces base in Dar Lac
7 province, Vietnam, on August 23, 1968, Mrs. Smith's son, U.S. Army
8 Sergeant James Warren Smith, lost his life while saving the life of
9 another young soldier, Linwood Hughes of North Carolina; in the
10 moments before Sergeant Smith died, Mr. Hughes solemnly promised to
11 tell the sergeant's family of his strength and courage at the end;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Because Sergeant Smith's name was a common one, it
14 took many years for Mr. Hughes to find his family, but at last, in
15 2000, he shared an emotional 90-minute phone conversation with Mrs.
16 Smith about her son and his valor; later that year, Mr. Hughes met
17 with Mrs. Smith and other members of her family at Sergeant Smith's
18 gravesite at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio; and

19 WHEREAS, This year, Mrs. Smith, at the age of 95, braved the
20 wind and chill of a March day in Texas to turn a spade of earth for
21 the Texas Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the grounds of the State
22 Capitol in Austin; due to be dedicated in the fall of 2013, this
23 inspiring 14-foot-high bronze sculpture of an infantry patrol will
24 pay tribute to the half million Texans who served in the war, the

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1 3,417 among them who died, the 105 who still remain missing, and the
2 17 who earned the Medal of Honor; and

3 WHEREAS, The struggle against communism in behalf of the free
4 people of South Vietnam cost the lives of many brave young
5 Americans, a toll that has perhaps weighed heaviest on the mothers
6 of those who died; for 45 years, Oleta Smith has borne the sorrow of
7 losing her only son and has remained steadfast in honoring his
8 commitment, courage, and patriotism; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby commend Oleta Smith for participating in the
11 groundbreaking ceremony for the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans
12 Memorial and extend to her sincere condolences for her loss; and, be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Mrs. Smith as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 House of Representatives.

Price

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2974 was adopted by the House on May 26, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House