

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 334

In Memory
of
Frank C. Stecklein

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of San Antonio in mourning the loss of Frank C. Stecklein, who died January 8, 2013, three months before his 100th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Born in Kansas in March of 1913, this exemplary patriot committed the better part of his life to military and civil service; after his graduation from military academy in 1932, he joined the United States Army Horse Cavalry, and he reenlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1941; and

WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Stecklein served valiantly in the Pacific theater, which saw some of the most ferocious fighting in World War II; he and other soldiers from the Detached Services of General MacArthur's headquarters in the Philippines became Japanese prisoners of war in May of 1942; as a captive over the next three years, he performed hard labor on the island of Luzon and survived brutal beatings as a forced worker in the coal mines of Japan; and

WHEREAS, His indomitable spirit sustained him through these ordeals; after months of rehabilitation, Mr. Stecklein reenlisted in the United States Air Force; he was recalled to Tokyo in 1947 as a witness in war crimes trials, and in 1949, he went through Intelligence training before being transferred to Germany to interview German prisoners of war; he was later stationed in South America; after retiring in 1962, he served in the Civil Service until 1972; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stecklein received numerous military honors, including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart; he was a life member of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor and a proud supporter of the American Legion and the Moose Lodge; and

WHEREAS, An extraordinary gentleman and a loving family man, Mr. Stecklein did not let the hardships of his military career overshadow the pleasures in life; he was an intrepid traveler and adventurer, and he embraced new experiences throughout his life; he took accordion lessons during his time in Germany, played the trumpet, and learned to speak Spanish before being posted to Paraguay and visiting every country in South America; and

WHEREAS, From the age of 13, he sang in church choir each year, and he continued that tradition by singing at Christmas mass at the age of 99, alongside his beloved wife, Judy; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Frank C. Stecklein; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Frank Stecklein.

Uresti, Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 4, 2013, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate