

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Willis Thomas Jones Jr. of Baytown is deserving  
2 of highest commendation for the valiant service he rendered to his  
3 state and his nation during World War II; and

4           WHEREAS, Dr. Jones enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces in  
5 November 1941, just one month prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl  
6 Harbor; he attended flight school and graduated from Armor School  
7 in April 1942, at which time he was commissioned a second  
8 lieutenant; shortly thereafter, he was assigned to one of the first  
9 B-17 bomber groups to head to England for the war; in the fall of  
10 1942, his unit was detached from the VIII Bomber Command in England  
11 and sent to serve in the North African campaign, which culminated in  
12 the surrender of the Axis forces under General Erwin Rommel in May  
13 1943; Dr. Jones was subsequently assigned to the 15th Air Force and  
14 based in Italy, where he arrived on December 25, 1943; after flying  
15 numerous missions as a gunner, he assumed the role of bombardier;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, On July 26, 1944, while Dr. Jones was flying his  
18 45th combat mission of the war, his bomber squadron was attacked by  
19 a group of German fighters over Vienna, Austria; the assault  
20 destroyed his plane and killed the crew's pilot, copilot, and  
21 engineer, but Dr. Jones was able to bail out of the aircraft at  
22 22,000 feet, after all remaining crew members had ejected; although  
23 miraculously unharmed, he was quickly captured by enemy forces and  
24 taken to the Stalag Luft I prisoner of war camp near Barth, Germany;

1 there, he endured several months of imprisonment, until the camp  
2 was liberated by Russian forces in May 1945; Dr. Jones was  
3 discharged from the military with the rank of major in 1946; and

4 WHEREAS, Following his return home to the Lone Star State,  
5 W. T. Jones married his wife, Ada Mae, on August 25, 1945, and the  
6 couple has since shared nearly seven rewarding decades together;  
7 Dr. Jones went on to attend medical school from 1946 to 1950, and he  
8 enjoyed a long and successful career in Baytown until his  
9 retirement in 1985; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. W. T. Jones embodies the highest ideals of the  
11 U.S. armed forces and deserves the lasting respect and gratitude of  
12 all Americans, and it is a privilege to commend him for his  
13 outstanding contributions to his country and his community; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Willis Thomas Jones Jr. for his brave  
17 and steadfast service in this nation's behalf; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for Dr. Jones as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
20 House of Representatives.

Smith

H.R. No. 192

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 192 was adopted by the House on  
February 19, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House