

By: Darby

H.R. No. 306

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, William Burgess Crooker of Big Spring, a World War
2 II veteran and a longtime public servant, is deserving of the
3 highest commendation for his exceptional efforts in behalf of his
4 country and his fellow Texans; and

5 WHEREAS, During the Second World War, Mr. Crooker served as a
6 bombardier with the U.S. Army Air Corps in the European theater; the
7 last mission he flew took place on December 6, 1944, when he
8 participated in a bombing raid on Nazi facilities at Devinska,
9 Czechoslovakia; about 15 minutes after the crew completed its
10 mission, their plane took heavy fire, and Mr. Crooker was among
11 those who escaped by parachute, only to be seized by the enemy on
12 the ground; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Crooker was interrogated and held in solitary
14 confinement before being transferred to Stalag One, a prison camp
15 in northern Germany; the American and British airmen held there
16 were given little to eat, and they endured severe hardships before
17 the camp was liberated by Russian forces on May 1, 1945; and

18 WHEREAS, Following his return to the States, Bill Crooker
19 exchanged wedding vows with the former Joyce Glenn on August 8,
20 1945; the couple lived for a time on the East Coast, while
21 Mr. Crooker completed his bachelor's degree in economics at the
22 University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and then
23 worked for General Electric and Ortho Pharmaceutical in
24 Philadelphia; after returning to Big Spring, Mrs. Crooker's

1 hometown, Mr. Crooker was employed with Cosden for 13 years before
2 he left to establish an employment agency and a real estate company;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan was elected as Howard County
5 commissioner for Precinct 3 in 1968, and he continued to serve
6 faithfully in that role for four decades; in addition, he has given
7 generously of his time and talents in numerous other positions of
8 civic leadership; and

9 WHEREAS, An exemplary member of the Greatest Generation, Bill
10 Crooker helped to defend liberty at a time of enormous peril, and
11 his contributions to his community, his state, and his nation are a
12 source of inspiration to all who know him; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
14 Legislature hereby honor William Burgess Crooker for his
15 distinguished record of service, both in war and in times of peace,
16 and commend him for his outstanding courage and dedication; and, be
17 it further

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