

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 2691

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, William A. Mitchell, a retired colonel in the U.S.
2 Air Force and a professor emeritus at Baylor University, has long
3 devoted his talents and energies to work with a higher purpose; and

4 WHEREAS, Determined as a teenager to enlist in the military,
5 even though he was underage at the time, Bill Mitchell fabricated a
6 new birth certificate for himself and joined the 36th Infantry
7 Division of the Texas National Guard in Clifton; as soon as he
8 completed the six months' training required to go on active duty, he
9 enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served at Lackland and Travis Air
10 Force Bases before being stationed overseas at Wheelus Air Base in
11 Tripoli, Libya; and

12 WHEREAS, Reassigned to Turkey in 1959, Dr. Mitchell later
13 completed a tour of duty in Vietnam, where he served as a civic
14 actions officer and flew missions in support of the army's Project
15 CHECO, analyzing and reporting on enemy attacks on Mekong River
16 convoys; during subsequent assignments in Turkey, he commanded the
17 Incirlik Air Base and the 724th Air Base Group at Izmir during the
18 Gulf War; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Mitchell retired from the air force at the rank
20 of colonel, following a career that took him to 30 countries over a
21 span of 34 years; he is the recipient of numerous military awards,
22 including the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Bronze Star
23 Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal; and

24 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan holds a bachelor's degree from

1 East Texas State University, a master's degree from the University
2 of California, Los Angeles, and a doctorate from the University of
3 Illinois; he has taught at the Air Force Academy and the Air War
4 College, and following his return to civilian life, he served for 20
5 years on the faculty at Baylor University, where he held the Jo
6 Murphy Chair in International Education; during his tenure at
7 Baylor, he established a study abroad program in Turkey and helped
8 to create the Center for Democracy at the University of Dohuk in
9 Iraq; a political scientist who works in the area of international
10 affairs, Dr. Mitchell has focused much of his research on Turkey,
11 where he lived for 10 years, and has more recently studied the
12 impact of colonialism in Francophone West Africa; he has published
13 widely on such topics as water management and disaster mitigation,
14 and he is currently at work on his third book; and

15 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Bill Mitchell has been
16 blessed with the love and support of his wife, the former Joan
17 Woodill; and

18 WHEREAS, Having made significant contributions in the course
19 of both his military and academic careers, William Mitchell remains
20 engaged in efforts to advance the causes of intercultural
21 understanding, democracy, and the well-being of peoples around the
22 world; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
24 Legislature hereby honor Dr. William A. Mitchell for his exemplary
25 service in behalf of his country and its highest values and extend
26 to him sincere best wishes for continued success in all his
27 endeavors; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Dr. Mitchell as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives.