

By: Smith

H.R. No. 2956

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life filled with meaningful service drew to a  
2 close with the passing of Senior Chief Petty Officer (Ret.) Terry  
3 Bruce Burkett of Dublin, Texas, on May 9, 2015, at the age of 69; and

4 WHEREAS, The youngest child of Edith Gabel and Lowell  
5 Burkett, Terry Burkett was born in Le Mars, Iowa, on April 26, 1946;  
6 he graduated from Cooper High School in Abilene in 1964 and enlisted  
7 to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Navy; in the course of a  
8 distinguished military career that spanned more than 22 years, he  
9 completed three tours of duty in Vietnam as a naval aircrewman and  
10 logged more than 6,000 flight hours as an aircrew chief; he received  
11 numerous accolades for his service, including the Air Medal, two  
12 Navy Commendation Medals, two Navy Achievement Medals, two Navy  
13 Meritorious Unit Commendations, the Battle Effectiveness Award,  
14 and five Good Conduct Medals; and

15 WHEREAS, After retiring, Mr. Burkett worked tirelessly in  
16 behalf of his fellow veterans, serving as commander and  
17 quartermaster of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3377 in Manchaca and  
18 as an active member of the Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans and  
19 the Vietnam Veterans of America; and

20 WHEREAS, In one of Mr. Burkett's most notable efforts to  
21 honor former members of the armed forces, he spent eight years on  
22 the Texas Capitol Vietnam Veterans Monument Executive Committee;  
23 his dedicated support for the project also included service as  
24 chair of the Veterans Outreach Committee, monitoring production and

1 casting of the bronze sculpture, maintaining a list of over 600  
2 donors who contributed to the initiative, and helping construct an  
3 educational companion website; moreover, he was a member of the  
4 Groundbreaking and Dedication Ceremony Subcommittees and  
5 participated in a historic reading of the names of all 3,417 Texans  
6 who were killed or went missing in Vietnam; and

7       WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Burkett enjoyed the  
8 love and support of his wife, Karen, and he was the proud father of  
9 four children, Christopher, Kelly, Jeffrey, and Lowell, and four  
10 stepchildren, Franklin, Charles, Douglas, and Samantha; over the  
11 years, his family grew to include 20 grandchildren and 3  
12 great-grandchildren; and

13       WHEREAS, A respected military veteran who devoted himself to  
14 ensuring that service members were properly honored for their  
15 sacrifice, Terry Burkett touched many lives during his journey on  
16 this earth, and those who had the good fortune to know him will  
17 forever hold him close in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Senior Chief Petty  
20 Officer (Ret.) Terry Bruce Burkett and extend sincere sympathy to  
21 the members of his family: to his wife, Karen Ayn Burkett; to his  
22 children, Christopher Leigh Burkett, Kelly Ann Fanelli, Jeffrey  
23 Allen Burkett, and Lowell David Burkett; to his stepchildren,  
24 Franklin James Barnard, Charles Michael Barnard, Douglas Gene  
25 Moore, and Samantha Kay Graham; to his 20 grandchildren and 3  
26 great-grandchildren; to his sisters, Marge Barnhill and Linda  
27 Smith; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it

1 further

2           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Terry Bruce  
5 Burkett.