

By: Wray

H.R. No. 138

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An esteemed World War II veteran and the oldest
2 living alumnus of Texas A&M University, Tom Clint Morris of San
3 Antonio is celebrating his 107th birthday on August 1, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Known as "Ike" to his family and friends, Mr. Morris
5 was born in 1910 and grew up on a farm in Forreston with his three
6 brothers and two sisters; he graduated from Waxahachie High School
7 before enrolling at the Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas
8 in 1929; there, he served as advertising manager of the college
9 annual, a member of the Corps of Cadets and the Aggie Ring
10 committee, and senior class president, all while carrying a full
11 course load, waiting tables in the athletes' dining hall, taking
12 tickets at events, and performing a number of other odd jobs; and

13 WHEREAS, After graduating in 1933 with a bachelor's degree in
14 agriculture, Mr. Morris was commissioned as a second lieutenant in
15 the U.S. Army Reserve; he returned to his hometown and accepted a
16 job as principal and coach for the Forreston School; on June 1,
17 1934, he was joined in matrimony to the former Margaret Calvin, whom
18 he had known since high school, and they went on to share a loving
19 marriage that spanned 76 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Morris worked as a civil servant with the
21 Department of Agriculture before being called up in 1941 for what
22 was scheduled to be a year of active military duty; nine months
23 later, the attack on Pearl Harbor brought the United States into
24 World War II, and he was among the valiant Americans who would serve

1 for the duration of the conflict; following training in the United
2 States, he said goodbye to Margaret and his young son, Tommy, and
3 was deployed to the European theater as an officer with the 38th
4 Infantry Regiment of the Second Infantry Division; his unit landed
5 in Normandy shortly after D-Day and helped capture Trevieres, the
6 first sizable town liberated from Nazi control during the invasion;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Over the next 11 months, he and his men took part in
9 operations in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Battle
10 of the Bulge, and Central Europe, playing a key role in the ultimate
11 defeat of Nazi Germany; a skilled and courageous leader, he became a
12 battalion commander and was promoted from major to lieutenant
13 colonel during his service in Europe; after the war, he remained in
14 the reserve until 1963, when he retired at the rank of colonel; in
15 recognition of his efforts during the war, he was awarded the French
16 Legion of Honor, that country's highest decoration, in 2015; and

17 WHEREAS, In his civilian life, Mr. Morris enjoyed several
18 lines of work, including co-owning Waxahachie Frozen Foods and
19 raising Black Angus cattle; in 1952 he returned to his prewar career
20 in federal civil service and eventually retired from that field;
21 dedicated to giving back to his fellow Texans, he served as
22 president of the Waxahachie school board, and he is a longtime
23 supporter of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students; and

24 WHEREAS, This remarkable man has lived life to the fullest
25 for well over a century, and it is indeed a pleasure to honor him for
26 his many contributions to our nation and to the State of Texas; now,
27 therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
2 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Tom "Ike"
3 Morris on his 107th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes
4 for continued happiness; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Mr. Morris as an expression of high regard by the Texas
7 House of Representatives.