

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 231

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life drew to a close with the
2 death of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander (Ret.) W. L. Crouch of
3 Rockport on November 17, 2016, at the age of 91; and

4 WHEREAS, "Babe" Crouch was born in Wilson, Oklahoma, on
5 September 25, 1925, to Leo and Audrey Crouch, and grew up in
6 Kilgore; in 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and attended boot
7 camp at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the course of his 30 years in the navy,
9 Mr. Crouch steadily worked his way up through the ranks and served
10 all over the world, including the South Pacific, Japan, Korea, the
11 Philippines, the Azores, and Cuba; in the early 1960s, as a
12 production and quality control officer, he worked on the Lunar
13 Excursion Module later used in the Apollo moon missions, and he
14 participated in research on the Polaris nuclear missile; he
15 subsequently served off the coast of Vietnam aboard the aircraft
16 carrier USS *Yorktown*; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Crouch's many commendations included the World
18 War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, the
19 American Campaign Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United
20 Nations Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam
21 Service Medal, among many others; he retired from the navy at the
22 rank of lieutenant commander in 1973; and

23 WHEREAS, That same year, Lieutenant Commander Crouch settled
24 in Texas and joined the Navy League Sea Cadet Program, and he spent

1 the rest of his life training young cadets in basic seamanship,
2 self-reliance, leadership, and discipline; he served as Sea Cadet
3 National Vice President, Southwest Field Representative, and
4 commanding officer of the training ship *Alamo*, among other
5 positions; in 1998, he received the Superior Public Service Award
6 from the secretary of the navy, and in 2004, he was named an admiral
7 in the Texas Navy; and

8 WHEREAS, This distinguished officer married Lieutenant
9 Commander Suzy Williams of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps in 2002; he
10 took pride in a fine family that included his daughter, Cindy
11 Crouch, and his stepdaughter, Roxanna Hott, as well as his wife's
12 children and grandchildren; since his baptism in 2002, he had been
13 an active member of First Baptist Church in Rockport; and

14 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander Crouch possessed the courage
15 and initiative that defined the finest members of his generation,
16 and his exemplary service to his country will forever inspire all
17 who had the privilege to know him; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Lieutenant Commander
20 W. L. Crouch and extend sincere condolences to his family and
21 friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of W. L.
25 Crouch.