

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 698

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, World War II veterans Ira B. Gohlke and Ray
2 Westerfeld of McGregor have been featured in the *Waco*
3 *Tribune-Herald* as Voices of Valor; and

4 WHEREAS, These two cousins were drafted into the U.S. Army in
5 1944; Mr. Gohlke was inducted in August and Mr. Westerfeld in
6 December, and both men trained at Fort Riley, Kansas; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Gohlke served with the American occupation
8 forces in Osaka, Japan, following the end of the war in the Pacific,
9 in early September 1945, while Mr. Westerfeld spent the remainder
10 of his enlistment period in Oregon and California and at Camp Hood;
11 Mr. Westerfeld was discharged at the rank of sergeant in July 1946,
12 while Mr. Gohlke mustered out at the rank of corporal in September
13 1946; and

14 WHEREAS, Back in Texas, the cousins, who had been courting
15 sisters Helene and Margaret Schulte, married in a double ceremony
16 on November 14, 1946; Ira and Margaret Gohlke raised 2 sons and have
17 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren, while Helene and Ray
18 Westerfeld have been blessed with 4 sons, 8 grandchildren, and 11
19 great-grandchildren; retired from farming, the couples now live
20 around the corner from each other, and they celebrated their joint
21 70th wedding anniversary in 2016; and

22 WHEREAS, Two men of deep patriotism, Ray Westerfeld and Ira
23 Gohlke embodied the highest ideals of the United States armed
24 forces, and their fellow citizens owe them a lasting debt of

1 gratitude; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
3 Legislature hereby congratulate Ira Gohlke and Ray Westerfeld on
4 their recognition as Voices of Valor by the *Waco Tribune-Herald* and
5 extend to them deep appreciation for their exemplary service to
6 their country; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
8 for Mr. Gohlke and Mr. Westerfeld as an expression of high regard
9 by the Texas House of Representatives.