

By: Darby

H.R. No. 903

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life filled with meaningful achievements drew to a  
2 close with the passing of former state representative Richard James  
3 Burnett of San Angelo on September 17, 2016, at the age of 94; and

4           WHEREAS, Dick Burnett was born in Toledo, Ohio, on January  
5 15, 1922, to Rollo and Margaret Burnett; after graduating from  
6 Toledo Central Catholic High School in 1940, he attended Toledo  
7 University until 1943, when he answered his nation's call to duty  
8 and enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces; he trained as a pilot at a  
9 number of bases in Texas, including Goodfellow Air Force Base in San  
10 Angelo, and he served with the 310th Fighter Squadron, flying a P-47  
11 "Thunderbolt" in the Pacific theater; and

12           WHEREAS, Following his return to civilian life in 1945,  
13 Mr. Burnett earned a bachelor's degree in business from Toledo  
14 University in 1947, and that same year, he was joined in matrimony  
15 to the former Margery Hurt; the couple shared their lives for 41  
16 years until her death in 1989, and together they raised three sons,  
17 William, Thomas, and John; their treasured family later grew to  
18 include four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

19           WHEREAS, In 1947, Mr. Burnett embarked on a three-decade  
20 career with the FBI, and he went on to serve in New York, Toledo,  
21 Tucson, and Puerto Rico; he was assigned to Dallas in 1964 to help  
22 investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and the  
23 following year he settled with his family in San Angelo, where he  
24 worked his final assignment; after retiring from the FBI in 1978, he

1 won election as the city's chief of police and headed the department  
2 for two years; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1980, Mr. Burnett was elected to the Texas House  
4 of Representatives, and he ultimately served a total of four terms  
5 in office; during his tenure in the legislature, he frequently drew  
6 on his expertise with police operations and the legal system,  
7 chairing the Public Safety Committee, serving as vice chair of the  
8 Law Enforcement Committee, and holding membership on the Criminal  
9 Jurisprudence Committee, in addition to taking on numerous other  
10 responsibilities at the State Capitol; he retired from the house in  
11 1989; and

12 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan further contributed to San  
13 Angelo through his work as president of the Community Justice  
14 Council, Adult Daycare, Crime Stoppers, Family Shelter, and the  
15 Retired Volunteer Program and as director of the Tom Green County  
16 Tax Appraisal Board, the Public Responsibility Committee, and the  
17 United Way; and

18 WHEREAS, A proud veteran, an accomplished law enforcement  
19 professional, and a dedicated elected official, Dick Burnett will  
20 be deeply missed, but his integrity, patriotism, and generosity of  
21 spirit will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him;  
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Richard  
25 James Burnett and extend sincere condolences to the members of his  
26 family: to his sons, William Burnett and his wife, Pamela, Thomas  
27 Burnett, and John Burnett; to his grandchildren, Michael Burnett

1 and his wife, Ella, Catherine Fierbaugh and her husband, Stephen,  
2 and Macary and Macy Burnett; to his great-grandchildren, Conner and  
3 Julianne Burnett and Ezra Fierbaugh; and to his other relatives and  
4 friends; and, be it further

5         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
7 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Richard  
8 James Burnett.