

By: Darby

H.R. No. 1385

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The certain knowledge of a life well lived may
2 comfort those mourning the loss of Jerry Kelley of Helotes, who
3 passed away on March 26, 2017, at the age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, Jerry Kelley was born on February 17, 1928, in
5 Christoval to Addie and Grover Kelley; a member of the Greatest
6 Generation, he grew up helping his family work the cotton fields
7 during the Depression and went on to enlist in the United States
8 Navy at the age of 16; he was stationed on the amphibious ship USS
9 *LSM-447* in the Pacific theater of World War II from 1944 to 1946,
10 and when the United States entered the Korean War in 1950, he
11 returned to naval service and progressed to the rank of boatswain's
12 mate third class; on September 25, 1961, he was commissioned an
13 honorary admiral in the Texas Navy; and

14 WHEREAS, On his return to civilian life, Mr. Kelley began a
15 career of nearly three decades with Harte-Hanks Newspapers, where
16 as the state circulation manager, he was tasked with supervising
17 the distribution of the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* to locations
18 across South Texas; he relocated in 1963 to serve in this same post
19 for the *San Antonio Express-News*, and after seven years on that job,
20 he was promoted to circulation director at the *San Angelo*
21 *Standard-Times*; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1975, Mr. Kelley was inspired to make a career
23 change, and he entered the field of specialty advertising, working
24 first with his uncle, John Kelley, and later with Howell & Windham

1 Advertising in Odessa; he continued this work until his retirement
2 at age 87, and along the way, he earned the respect and loyalty of
3 clients in many different industries; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Kelley shared a rewarding relationship with his
5 wife of 67 years, Mary, until her passing, and he was the loving
6 father of three children, Jerry, David, and Kathy; he also had the
7 joy of becoming a grandfather and great-grandfather many times
8 over; having worked hard to obtain his GED and to attend Victoria
9 College, he took great pride in seeing his children and
10 grandchildren receive college and postgraduate degrees and achieve
11 success for themselves; among his favorite pastimes were fishing on
12 the Concho River and the Gulf of Mexico, traveling the highways of
13 Texas, and sharing with his family and friends stories from days
14 past, including experiences from his time in the navy; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the course of his lifetime, Jerry Kelley
16 distinguished himself as a courageous service member, an
17 accomplished professional, and a caring family man, and he will
18 long remain a source of inspiration for those he leaves behind; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Jerry Kelley and
22 extend sincere sympathy to all those who mourn his passing; and, be
23 it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jerry
27 Kelley.