

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.R. No. 1875

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life rich with purpose has drawn to a close with
2 the death of U.S. Army Colonel (Ret.) Roy W. Burley Sr. of San
3 Antonio on April 20, 2017, at the age of 93; and

4 WHEREAS, Roy Burley was born in Hallettsville on October 29,
5 1923, to Robert Burley and Beatrice Woodard; after graduating from
6 Phillis Wheatley High School in San Antonio in 1940, he attended
7 Prairie View A&M College until he was called to active duty in the
8 U.S. Army in May 1943; he was among an elite group of African
9 Americans who took part in the Army Specialized Training Program at
10 Howard University, and he was commissioned as a second lieutenant
11 in December 1944; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the course of his distinguished 30-year
13 military career, Colonel Burley served in World War II, the Korean
14 War, and the Vietnam War, in duty assignments ranging from platoon
15 leader to brigade commander and high-level staff posts; he attended
16 the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College,
17 earned bachelor's degrees from the University of Nebraska and
18 Prairie View A&M, and studied at The University of Texas at San
19 Antonio; Roy Burley retired from active duty in 1973 as chief of the
20 ROTC Division, Fifth Army Headquarters; his numerous military
21 awards include the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the
22 Bronze Star, and the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf
23 clusters; and

24 WHEREAS, In civilian life, Colonel Burley served the San

1 Antonio community as a member of the University Health System Board
2 of Managers, as executive coordinator of a job-training partnership
3 between the San Antonio Alliance of Business and the Private
4 Industry Council, and as executive director of the Bexar County
5 Opportunities Industrialization Center; he also served as director
6 of personnel at USAA and, for eight years, as executive assistant to
7 State Representative Lou Nelle Sutton; and

8 WHEREAS, Colonel Burley and his college sweetheart, Lillian
9 Snow, shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 72 years; the proud
10 father of four children, Roy, Ronald, Nan, and Joan, this esteemed
11 Texan was blessed later in life with six grandchildren and four
12 great-grandchildren; he was an active member of the United
13 Methodist Men and of the Prometheans, the veterans association of
14 those soldiers who trained together at Howard University during
15 World War II; and

16 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to his family and his community, Roy
17 Burley made a difference in many lives, and his record of integrity,
18 service to others, and dedication to duty will continue to inspire
19 all those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Colonel (Ret.) Roy
22 W. Burley Sr. and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many
23 friends; and, be 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 Roy Burley
27 Sr.