

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 2572

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Felix Longoria Jr. is celebrating his 96th birthday
2 on May 24, 2017, to the delight of his family and friends; and

3 WHEREAS, Born in Skidmore in 1921, Felix Longoria is a
4 descendant of Juan Miguel Longoria Jr., a mid-19th-century resident
5 of Blue Town who became the first in the Rio Grande Valley to set up
6 a system to irrigate his land with river water; he enlisted in the
7 United States Army in 1939, and after completing basic training at
8 Fort Sam Houston, he received ski combat training in Wisconsin;
9 deployed to England as a 23-year-old sergeant, he led a platoon in
10 the Invasion of Normandy on D-day and fought on Omaha Beach; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Longoria was struck by machine gun fire in
12 Brest, France, and was confined to an English hospital for six
13 weeks; after being awarded the Purple Heart, he learned that his
14 mother had fainted at the news; he returned to the front and
15 received several shrapnel wounds during the Battle of the Bulge,
16 but he told the medics not to fill out any Purple Heart paperwork
17 for fear his mother would be further distressed; later, he was
18 injured in hand-to-hand combat during the liberation of a
19 concentration camp, and although he again averted a Purple Heart,
20 he earned a Bronze Star for shooting a German soldier in order to
21 protect his men; he attained the rank of first sergeant before his
22 honorable discharge in 1948; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Longoria settled in Corpus Christi after the war
24 and worked as a civilian aviation metalsmith at the Naval Air

1 Station until his retirement; devoted to his family, he is the proud
2 father of two children, and he shared a fulfilling relationship of
3 59 years with his wife, Theodosa Longoria, before her passing in
4 2004; he lives independently and enjoys meeting friends weekly at
5 Lindale Community Center and playing dominoes nearly every Friday
6 night; and

7 WHEREAS, An admired member of the Greatest Generation,
8 Mr. Longoria is an inspiration to many, and he continues to enrich
9 the lives of all who are fortunate enough to know him; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Felix Longoria Jr. on the occasion
13 of his 96th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for
14 continued happiness; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Mr. Longoria as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.