

By: Hughes

S.C.R. No. 49

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, U.S. Air Force Captain Robert Russell Barnett was
2 laid to rest at the Texas State Cemetery on April 7, 2017, the 51st
3 anniversary of the day that he was killed in action during the
4 Vietnam War; and

5 WHEREAS, A member of the 8th Bomber Squadron, Captain Barnett
6 was flying a classified mission when his aircraft was shot down over
7 Laos in 1966; it was nearly 40 years before the U.S. military was
8 able to locate the crash site and 50 before his body was recovered;
9 thanks to the dedicated and exhaustive work of those who took part
10 in this effort, he is now able to be buried with full military
11 honors in the state and country he loved; and

12 WHEREAS, The son of Robert and Zelma Barnett, Russell Barnett
13 was born on October 5, 1933, and raised in Gladewater; he graduated
14 from Gladewater High School, where he played for the Bears football
15 team; his skill on the gridiron earned him a football scholarship to
16 Baylor University, and after completing his degree there, he
17 enlisted in the U.S. Air Force; flying under the call sign "Bear,"
18 his nickname, he served 10 years in the air force and was proud to be
19 fighting to protect our freedoms; when he passed away at age 32, he
20 left behind two cherished daughters, Donna and Debra; and

21 WHEREAS, Captain Russell Barnett served with honor, courage,
22 and patriotism, embodying the highest ideals of the United States
23 armed forces, and his fellow citizens owe him a debt of gratitude
24 and remembrance that the passage of time can never diminish; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby pay special tribute to the memory of Captain Robert Russell
4 Barnett and extend to his loved ones sincere condolences for the
5 loss of this valiant Texan; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate and House of
8 Representatives adjourn this day, they do so in memory of Captain
9 Russell Barnett.