

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 418

In Memory
of
Robert Russell Barnett

WHEREAS, United States Air Force Captain Robert Russell Barnett is being laid to rest at the Texas State Cemetery on April 7, 2017, the 51st anniversary of the day that he was killed in action during the Vietnam War; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Captain Russell Barnett served with honor, courage, and patriotism, embodying the highest ideals of the

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United States armed forces, and his fellow citizens owe him a debt of gratitude and remembrance that the passage of time can never diminish; now, therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Captain Russell Barnett.

Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 14, 2017, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate