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By:  Bernal H.R. No. 642

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, U.S. Navy Seaman Lawrence Paul Hayden gave his life in the line of duty during the tragic attack on the USS *Liberty* in the eastern Mediterranean Sea on June 8, 1967; and

WHEREAS, During the Six-Day War, the USS *Liberty*, an American signals intelligence ship, was stationed off the coast of Gaza, and on June 8, the ship was attacked by Israeli fighter planes and torpedo boats; of the 34 Americans killed and the 171 wounded, Mr. Hayden is believed to be the only Texan; and

WHEREAS, A native of Houston, Larry Hayden was adopted at birth on June 16, 1947, by Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hayden, and he grew up with two sisters and a brother; as a young boy, he used his talent performing magic tricks at benefits for orphanages and other charities, and he went on to become an accomplished public speaker, debater, and actor, playing in both professional and school productions; he was president of his church's youth group, and by the time he graduated from high school, he was already working as a radio announcer on KQED radio in Houston; and

WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, Mr. Hayden joined the U.S. Navy in May 1966, and he was stationed on the USS *Liberty* as a cryptologic technician; he had been serving for just over a year on the day of the attack, and he died eight days before his 20th birthday; he is buried in Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence Hayden was a young man of great promise who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country, and his fellow Americans owe him a debt that the passage of time can never diminish; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of U.S. Navy Seaman Lawrence Paul Hayden.