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By:  Springer H.R. No. 960

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Vietnam veteran Gary Ferguson of Gainesville, Texas, was featured in the PBS television program *We'll Meet Again* in February 2018, in recognition of his work with Vietnamese refugees; and

WHEREAS, A native of Minnesota, Mr. Ferguson enlisted in the navy after graduating from high school, and he went on to serve in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Mr. Ferguson felt compelled to help those Vietnamese who had fled the chaos following the end of the war and were living as refugees; embarking on a personal mission, he attempted to rescue a number of people stranded on the Indonesian island of Buton and take them by boat to Singapore, but he and the others were turned back; he was later arrested by the Indonesian authorities for this effort; and

WHEREAS, After his release, Mr. Ferguson was joined by his wife, Sandra, and their daughters, Kimberly and Kelly, and he continued his refugee work in Cambodia; in 1980, he and his family returned to the United States; he became the father of a third daughter, Kristina, and he now lives near his daughter Kelly in Gainesville; and

WHEREAS, In the episode of *We'll Meet Again* entitled "Lost Children of Vietnam," Mr. Ferguson is reunited with one of the former refugees from Pulau Buton, Nam Nguyen; now a resident of the United States, Mr. Nguyen has never forgotten Mr. Ferguson's kindness; and

WHEREAS, During the difficult years after the Vietnam War, Gary Ferguson made a remarkable attempt to help those Vietnamese who found themselves in desperate circumstances, and his efforts are a testament to his courage, initiative, and compassion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commend Gary Ferguson for the assistance he offered Vietnamese refugees and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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