H.R. No. 1557

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Oscar Jesus Hale retired as chief investigator of the Office of the District Attorney for the 49th Judicial District of Texas in Webb County in August 2018, drawing to a close an outstanding career in law enforcement that spanned half a century; and

WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, "O. J." Hale was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965; he served in Vietnam, where he saw combat on a daily basis as a gunship gunner, logged hundreds of hours on helicopter missions, and survived two crash landings; in recognition of his service, he earned 16 air medals, each representing 25 hours of air time; and

WHEREAS, Returning to civilian life, O. J. Hale joined the Laredo Police Department in 1968, at the age of 22; he quickly earned a sterling reputation as an investigator, and he was promoted to detective, working cases relating to robbery, homicide, and crimes against persons; and

WHEREAS, After less than five years with the police department, O. J. Hale joined the Office of the District Attorney for the 49th Judicial District of Texas in Webb County, where he served as chief investigator for over 45 years; working under four district attorneys over the course of his impressive tenure, he helped solve dozens of murders and kidnapping cases for the FBI and the Mexican authorities, played a vital role in several high-profile capital murder trials, and helped negotiate the surrender of a dangerous escapee in the 1980s; he also helped secure the conviction of a serial killer from Alaska, and he contributed significantly to the team that prosecuted the murderer of the singer Selena; and

WHEREAS, O. J. Hale is widely respected by his peers as a skilled and dedicated investigator; in 2015, the Texas Department of Public Safety named its Laredo crime lab in his honor, and in 2018, he was recognized as Dean of Texas Investigators by the Texas District and County Attorneys Association; and

WHEREAS, For five decades, O. J. Hale's dedication, professionalism, and integrity greatly benefited and impacted the people of South Texas, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a career well spent as he embarks upon the next exciting chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby congratulate O. J. Hale on his retirement from the Office of the District Attorney for the 49th Judicial District and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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

Raymond

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1557 was adopted by the House on May 17, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House