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By:  Herrero H.R. No. 2105

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life devoted to the service of his nation drew to a close with the death of U.S. Navy Captain (Ret.) Frank Montesano of Corpus Christi on April 13, 2018, at the age of 68; and

WHEREAS, "Rocco" Montesano was born in Passaic, New Jersey, on July 27, 1949, to Ann and Rocco Montesano, and he grew up in Hackensack; in 1971, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, and he later earned a master's degree from St. Mary's University; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his distinguished 27-year career as a U.S. Navy pilot, Captain Montesano accumulated more than 5,500 flight hours and served in the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean, the North Atlantic, and the Arabian Sea; during Operation Desert Storm, he commanded A-6 Squadron VA-176, winning three consecutive "Battle E" awards; he went on to work in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon, command Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, and serve as manpower director for the Chief of Naval Air Training until his retirement in 1998; his decorations included two Legion of Merit Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal; and

WHEREAS, Captain Montesano served for a decade as executive director of the USS *Lexington* Museum in Corpus Christi; under his leadership, this legendary World War II aircraft carrier has become one of the most popular tourist destinations in the region, drawing more than 300,000 visitors a year; he also gave back to his community through his participation with the Corpus Christi Mustangs, the Corpus Christi Housing Authority, and the Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Captain Montesano shared 46 years with his wife, Joanne, and he was a loving father to his children, Michael Montesano and Cariann Galloway, and a doting grandfather to Kyleigh and Kase Galloway; he enjoyed playing golf and basketball, and he delighted in the time he spent in his garden; and

WHEREAS, A devoted family man and a proud veteran, Rocco Montesano served with honor, courage, and dedication, and his memory will be forever cherished by all those who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Captain Frank "Rocco" Montesano and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Captain Frank Montesano.