

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 50

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the passing of U.S. Air Force Major General (Ret.)
3 Michael John Butchko of Nacogdoches on December 5, 2018, at the age
4 of 78; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of Michael Butchko and Helen Litman, Mike
6 Butchko was born in Moundsville, West Virginia, on January 9, 1940;
7 in 1963, he married the former Kay Ann Henry, and the couple shared
8 a rewarding union of 55 years; he took great pride in their
9 children, Benjamin and Kathryn, and he had the pleasure of seeing
10 his family grow to include three grandchildren; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Butchko graduated from the U.S. Air Force
12 Academy in 1962 and went on to serve his nation on active duty for 31
13 years; he flew nearly 130 missions during the Vietnam War, and after
14 returning from combat, he became a test pilot and played an
15 instrumental role in the development of aircraft still used by
16 today's military; following his retirement as commander of the Air
17 Force Development Test Center at Eglin Air Force Base in 1993, he
18 enjoyed a successful civilian career, leading companies that
19 operated the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral Air Force
20 Station, and the Nevada National Security Site; he held a
21 bachelor's degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a master's degree
22 in systems management from the University of Southern California,
23 and a master's degree in public administration from Auburn
24 University; and

1 WHEREAS, A valued resident of Nacogdoches since 2013, Major
2 General Butchko benefited his community in myriad ways; he served
3 on the board of the American Red Cross of Southeast and Deep East
4 Texas and led efforts to reestablish a Red Cross office in
5 Nacogdoches; in addition, he volunteered his time with a number of
6 other worthy causes and organizations; and

7 WHEREAS, Mike Butchko was admired not only for his
8 unfaltering commitment to duty but also for his optimism,
9 generosity, and good humor, and he leaves behind a legacy that will
10 continue to inspire all who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be
11 it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of U.S. Air Force Major
14 General (Ret.) Michael John Butchko and extend sincere sympathy to
15 the members of his family: to his wife, Kay Butchko; to his
16 children, Benjamin Butchko and his wife, Kirstin, and Kathryn Pelka
17 and her husband, Jay; to his grandchildren, Elizabeth, Jay, and
18 Katelyn; to his siblings, Christina Butchko and Andrew Butchko; and
19 to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of U.S. Air
23 Force Major General (Ret.) Michael Butchko.