

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Ralph Moody Hall of Rockwall, one of
2 the last members of the Greatest Generation to serve in the
3 U.S. Congress, passed away on March 7, 2019, at the age of 95,
4 bringing a great loss to his family, friends, and fellow Texans; and

5 WHEREAS, First elected to the House of Representatives in
6 1980, Ralph Hall became legendary for his work ethic and dedication
7 to constituent service; he spent every weekend back home when
8 Congress was in session, visiting small towns and learning about
9 voters' concerns; on one occasion, he even drove a local veteran
10 some 300 miles round-trip to get his benefits set up at the regional
11 VA office in Waco; and

12 WHEREAS, Congressman Hall was ever attentive to the economic
13 interests of Texas; as ranking member and chair of the Science,
14 Space, and Technology Committee, he championed NASA, and he
15 advocated for the state's oil and gas industry as a key member of
16 the Energy and Commerce Committee; moreover, he secured federal
17 funding for a number of major projects, including an airport and
18 roadway, now named in his honor; his integrity, charm, and
19 self-deprecating sense of humor won over even those who disagreed
20 with him on nearly every issue, and he was reelected 16 times,
21 becoming the oldest person ever to serve in the U.S. House in 2012;
22 he was 91 when he left office in 2015; and

23 WHEREAS, Born in Fate on May 3, 1923, Congressman Hall
24 delivered newspapers and worked at a pharmacy while growing up; he

1 also entered politics at an early age, handing out campaign cards
2 for candidates and chauffeuring them around; he joined the
3 U.S. Navy during World War II, and completed pilot training; after
4 demobilization, he went to college on the G.I. Bill and then worked
5 three jobs while pursuing a law degree at Southern Methodist
6 University; he won election as Rockwall County Judge and finished
7 his degree near the beginning of his 12-year tenure in that office;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Congressman Hall went on to win a state senate seat
10 in 1962, and over the next decade, he chaired a number of
11 committees, among them Consumer Protection, Transportation, and
12 County, District, and Urban Affairs; during a short stint in the
13 private sector, he practiced law, served as chief executive of
14 Texas Aluminum Corporation, and founded a bank in his hometown; and

15 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, he shared a rewarding
16 relationship with Mary Ellen Murphy Hall before her passing in
17 2008, and he once told a reporter, with wry wistfulness, "In 63
18 years of marriage, we never had a single, solitary argument . . .
19 that I won"; he was the father of three sons, Hampton, Brett, and
20 Blakeley, and he took great pride in his five grandchildren and two
21 great-grandchildren; long after his 80th birthday, he remained fit
22 and active, starting his days with two-mile runs and, in 2012,
23 marking Memorial Day by skydiving to honor members of the military;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Ralph Hall dedicated every chapter of his life to
26 public service, leaving a legacy that will continue to resonate for
27 years to come, and he will be remembered with admiration and deep

H.R. No. 803

1 affection by all who were privileged to know this kind, thoughtful,
2 and gracious man; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
4 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of former
5 U.S. Congressman Ralph Moody Hall and extend sincere condolences to
6 all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ralph Moody
10 Hall.

Holland
Flynn
VanDeaver
Paddie
Smith

Bonnen of Brazoria	Guerra	Noble
Allen	Guillen	Oliverson
Allison	Gutierrez	Ortega
Anchia	Harless	Pacheco
Anderson	Harris	Paddie
Ashby	Hefner	Parker
Bailes	Hernandez	Patterson
Beckley	Herrero	Paul
Bell of Kaufman	Hinojosa	Perez
Bell of Montgomery	Holland	Phelan
Bernal	Howard	Price
Biedermann	Huberty	Ramos
Blanco	Hunter	Raney
Bohac	Israel	Raymond
Bonnen of Galveston	E. Johnson of Dallas	Reynolds
Bowers	J. Johnson of Dallas	Rodriguez
Buckley	Johnson of Harris	Romero, Jr.
Bucy	Kacal	Rose
Burns	King of Hemphill	Rosenthal
Burrows	King of Parker	Sanford
Button	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Cain	Klick	Shaheen
Calanni	Krause	Sheffield
Canales	Kuempel	Sherman, Sr.
Capriglione	Lambert	Shine
Clardy	Landgraf	Smith
Cole	Lang	Smithee
Coleman	Larson	Springer
Collier	Leach	Stephenson
Cortez	Leman	Stickland
Craddick	Longoria	Stucky
Cyrrier	Lopez	Swanson
Darby	Lozano	Talarico
Davis of Dallas	Lucio III	Thierry
Davis of Harris	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Dean	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Deshotel	Metcalf	Tinderholt
Dominguez	Meyer	Toth
Dutton	Meza	Turner of Dallas
Farrar	Middleton	Turner of Tarrant
Fierro	Miller	VanDeaver
Flynn	Minjarez	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morales	White
Geren	Morrison	Wilson
Gervin-Hawkins	Muñoz, Jr.	Wray
Goldman	Murphy	Wu
González of Dallas	Murr	Zedler
González of El Paso	Neave	Zerwas
Goodwin	Nevárez	Zwiener

H.R. No. 803

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 803 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 13, 2019.

Chief Clerk of the House