

By: Holland

H.R. No. 803

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

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.