

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Vietnam veteran Gary Ferguson of Gainesville,
2 Texas, was featured in the PBS television program *We'll Meet Again*
3 in February 2018, in recognition of his work with Vietnamese
4 refugees; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Minnesota, Mr. Ferguson enlisted in the
6 navy after graduating from high school, and he went on to serve in
7 Vietnam; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1979, Mr. Ferguson felt compelled to help those
9 Vietnamese who had fled the chaos following the end of the war and
10 were living as refugees; embarking on a personal mission, he
11 attempted to rescue a number of people stranded on the Indonesian
12 island of Buton and take them by boat to Singapore, but he and the
13 others were turned back; he was later arrested by the Indonesian
14 authorities for this effort; and

15 WHEREAS, After his release, Mr. Ferguson was joined by his
16 wife, Sandra, and their daughters, Kimberly and Kelly, and he
17 continued his refugee work in Cambodia; in 1980, he and his family
18 returned to the United States; he became the father of a third
19 daughter, Kristina, and he now lives near his daughter Kelly in
20 Gainesville; and

21 WHEREAS, In the episode of *We'll Meet Again* entitled "Lost
22 Children of Vietnam," Mr. Ferguson is reunited with one of the
23 former refugees from Pulau Buton, Nam Nguyen; now a resident of the
24 United States, Mr. Nguyen has never forgotten Mr. Ferguson's

1 kindness; and

2 WHEREAS, During the difficult years after the Vietnam War,
3 Gary Ferguson made a remarkable attempt to help those Vietnamese
4 who found themselves in desperate circumstances, and his efforts
5 are a testament to his courage, initiative, and compassion; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
8 Legislature hereby commend Gary Ferguson for the assistance he
9 offered Vietnamese refugees and extend to him sincere best wishes
10 for the future; and, be it further

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

Springer

H.R. No. 960

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 960 was adopted by the House on April 12, 2019, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House