

By: Springer

H.R. No. 960

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.