

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 1557

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Oscar Jesus Hale retired as chief investigator of
2 the Office of the District Attorney for the 49th Judicial District
3 of Texas in Webb County in August 2018, drawing to a close an
4 outstanding career in law enforcement that spanned half a century;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, "O. J." Hale
7 was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965; he served in Vietnam, where
8 he saw combat on a daily basis as a gunship gunner, logged hundreds
9 of hours on helicopter missions, and survived two crash landings;
10 in recognition of his service, he earned 16 air medals, each
11 representing 25 hours of air time; and

12 WHEREAS, Returning to civilian life, O. J. Hale joined the
13 Laredo Police Department in 1968, at the age of 22; he quickly
14 earned a sterling reputation as an investigator, and he was
15 promoted to detective, working cases relating to robbery, homicide,
16 and crimes against persons; and

17 WHEREAS, After less than five years with the police
18 department, O. J. Hale joined the Office of the District Attorney
19 for the 49th Judicial District of Texas in Webb County, where he
20 served as chief investigator for over 45 years; working under four
21 district attorneys over the course of his impressive tenure, he
22 helped solve dozens of murders and kidnapping cases for the FBI and
23 the Mexican authorities, played a vital role in several
24 high-profile capital murder trials, and helped negotiate the

1 surrender of a dangerous escapee in the 1980s; he also helped secure
2 the conviction of a serial killer from Alaska, and he contributed
3 significantly to the team that prosecuted the murderer of the
4 singer Selena; and

5 WHEREAS, O. J. Hale is widely respected by his peers as a
6 skilled and dedicated investigator; in 2015, the Texas Department
7 of Public Safety named its Laredo crime lab in his honor, and in
8 2018, he was recognized as Dean of Texas Investigators by the Texas
9 District and County Attorneys Association; and

10 WHEREAS, For five decades, O. J. Hale's dedication,
11 professionalism, and integrity greatly benefited and impacted the
12 people of South Texas, and he may indeed reflect with pride on a
13 career well spent as he embarks upon the next exciting chapter of
14 his life; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
16 Legislature hereby congratulate O. J. Hale on his retirement from
17 the Office of the District Attorney for the 49th Judicial District
18 and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and,
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Mr. Hale as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.