

By: Darby

H.R. No. 2197

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The heroism of former Texas A&M University president  
2 James Earl Rudder during World War II is being honored with the  
3 dedication of a statue on the grounds of the McCulloch County  
4 Courthouse in Brady on June 6, 2019, the 75th anniversary of D-Day;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Sculpted by Troy Kelley of Salado, this striking  
7 eight-and-a-half-foot bronze statue depicts Lieutenant Colonel  
8 Rudder in full combat gear as he led the 2nd Battalion of Army  
9 Rangers ashore in Normandy on that fateful day in 1944; under  
10 withering fire from the enemy, Colonel Rudder and his men scaled the  
11 100-foot cliffs at Pointe du Hoc and destroyed the German batteries  
12 there; half the men in the battalion were killed or injured, and  
13 Lieutenant Colonel Rudder himself was wounded twice; and

14           WHEREAS, This heroic American went on to command the 109th  
15 Infantry Regiment at the Battle of the Bulge; promoted to full  
16 colonel, he was highly decorated, earning the Distinguished Service  
17 Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with  
18 oak leaf cluster, the Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster, and the  
19 French Legion of Honor with *croix de guerre*, among others; after the  
20 war, he continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve, winning  
21 promotion to brigadier general in 1954 and to major general in 1957;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, Mr. Rudder was mayor of Brady from 1946 to 1952 and  
24 Texas land commissioner from 1955 to 1958, playing a leading role in

1 the reform of the Veterans Land Program; he became vice president of  
2 Texas A&M University in 1958 and president of the school the  
3 following year; from 1965 until his death in 1970, he was president  
4 of the entire Texas A&M system, and he was instrumental in the  
5 transformation of the university from a small land grant college to  
6 a major research institution; and

7 WHEREAS, A leader in peace and war, James Earl Rudder lived a  
8 remarkable life dedicated to the service of his state and his  
9 nation, and the new statue in Brady is a fitting tribute to the  
10 legacy of this legendary Texan; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the statue of  
13 James Earl Rudder in Brady and extend to all those involved in  
14 bringing this project to fruition and to all those in attendance  
15 sincere best wishes for a memorable event.