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By:  Murr H.R. No. 25

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life lived with joy and purpose drew to a close with the passing of Stephen C. Helbing Sr. on May 31, 2021, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, The son of Ruby Couch Helbing and Dr. Arlington Helbing, Steve Helbing was born in Barnhart on February 12, 1927; his parents moved to San Angelo to provide him with better educational opportunity, and he spent happy boyhood summers on his maternal grandfather's ranch near Ozona; during World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy, and he went on to complete his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics at Texas A&M University; he began working for Hughes Tools in Jayton, and his long career in the oil industry later took him to New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado; an admired entrepreneur, he served as president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association and New Mexico Landmen's Association; he continued the family ranching tradition and also bought a farm near Mertzon; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Helbing served as a New Mexico state representative and Republican Party leader; active in civic life in Midland and Roswell, he was chair of the Roswell Salvation Army for many years, and he was an elder in the Presbyterian Church; he formed a host of lasting friendships along the way and acquired a large store of Aggie jokes from his network; in all his endeavors, he was supported by the love and encouragement of his wife of seven decades, Ellen Saylors Helbing; he was the proud father of four sons, Stephen, Scott, Ross, and Robert, who honored him on his 80th birthday by endowing a scholarship in agricultural economics at his alma mater; blessed with nine grandchildren, he was an adoring "Pop-Pop"; in his final years, his greatest joy was sitting on the porch of his farm with his wife and other family members, telling stories and sharing laughter and life lessons; and

WHEREAS, Although Steve Helbing is deeply missed by those he left behind, they will forever cherish their memories of his wonderful sense of humor and steadfast devotion to his family, his faith, and his country; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Stephen C. Helbing Sr. and extend sincere condolences to his relatives and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Stephen C. Helbing Sr.