87R17164 BK-D

By:  White H.R. No. 473

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life filled with meaningful achievements and courageous wartime service drew to a close with the passing of Hermon Rudolph Netherland of Colmesneil on March 19, 2021, at the age of 94; and

WHEREAS, Born on April 21, 1926, in Enterprise, Louisiana, Hermon Netherland was the son of Neal and Anne Netherland; he later moved with his family to Port Arthur, and when he was 16 years old, he persuaded his father to allow him to enlist in the United States Navy to fight in World War II; he trained as both a signalman and a specialist in underwater demolitions, and he would eventually take part in nearly every major campaign in the Pacific theater of operations; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the war, Mr. Netherland was stationed aboard the USS *Birgit*, a troop transport and cargo vessel; he was present for the invasions of Guam, Saipan, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, the Philippines, and the Marshall Islands, and while deployed to the Philippines, he and his fellow Navy "frogmen" were tasked with neutralizing underwater mines left by Japanese forces; his duties were often perilous, and he was wounded twice, once when he was struck by mortar shrapnel and once when he was shot by a Japanese soldier on the shore of Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, After returning to Port Arthur, Mr. Netherland met his future wife, Velma, and the couple shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 64 years before her passing; they became the parents of a daughter, Sharon, who also preceded her father in death; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Netherland worked for Texaco in Port Arthur until retiring in 1985; he subsequently moved to his cabin on Lake Amanda in Colmesneil, where he resided for 36 years; during his leisure time, he enjoyed deer hunting and fishing, especially for catfish along the Sabine River; and

WHEREAS, A devoted family man, a dear friend, and an exemplary member of the Greatest Generation, Hermon Rudolph Netherland will be greatly missed, and his memory will long endure in the hearts of all those who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Hermon Rudolph Netherland and extend deepest sympathy to those who mourn his passing; 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 Hermon Netherland.