H.R. No. 1802

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A life dedicated to the service of his community, state, and nation drew to a close with the death of retired Army National Guard Brigadier General Thomas Gerald Stone of Temple on April 2, 2021, at the age of 87; and

WHEREAS, The son of a sharecropper, Tommy Stone was born in the back of a cotton wagon on May 16, 1933, to Bertha and Ocie Stone, and he grew up in Marlin with four siblings, Barbara, Margaret, Al, and Butch; in 1956, he married the former Claudette Miller, and they became the proud parents of three children, Keith, Janet, and Kelly; later in life, he was blessed with eight grandchildren, Audrey, Alexandra, Emily, Sam, Deena, Nicole, Anna, and Kaden; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from high school in Marlin, Mr. Stone attended Wharton Junior College and what is now Sam Houston State University on football scholarships, and he later earned a master's degree in history and education at Hardin-Simmons University; his civilian career in coaching and teaching spanned 30 years, and he rose to become head coach and athletic director at Lubbock High School; after moving to Temple, he ran a driving school and safety consultancy until retiring in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stone first joined the National Guard when he was still in high school, training as an infantryman and tank crewman; while living in Lubbock, he was promoted to full colonel and served on active duty at Fort Sheridan, Illinois; he earned a master's degree in military science and international relations from the U.S. Army War College; in 1996, he was promoted to brigadier general and served as assistant division commander for support of the 49th Armored Division, which at the time was the largest armored division in the world; his military awards included the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal; and

WHEREAS, A leader in his community, Mr. Stone served three terms on the Temple City Council, and he was president of the Temple Industrial Development Authority and a trustee of the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor; he was also a member of the Temple Civil Service Commission, the Killeen-Temple Urban Transportation Committee, the Temple Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, and the Texas Legislative Military Task Force; a man of faith, he was a congregant of Immanuel Baptist Church; he was honored with the Temple Distinguished Citizen Award and the Temple Rotary Citizen Award, among other accolades; and

WHEREAS, Tommy Stone lived a rich and purposeful life, and he leaves behind a record of service that his loved ones can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Thomas Gerald Stone and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many 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 Thomas Stone.

Shine

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1802 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 29, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chief Clerk of the House