

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 1210

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life dedicated to the service of his nation and his
2 community drew to a close with the death of Randall County Judge
3 Ernie Houdashell on November 22, 2020, at the age of 74; and

4 WHEREAS, Ernie Houdashell was born in Clarendon on November
5 21, 1946, to Ernest and Della Houdashell, and he grew up in Hedley
6 with two sisters, Pat and Loveta; and

7 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty, Mr. Houdashell
8 enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1966 and served two tours of duty in
9 Vietnam with the 191st Assault Helicopter Company as a Huey
10 helicopter mechanic, crew chief, and door gunner; in 1968, he
11 received the Air Medal for flying more than 25 missions in hostile
12 territory within a six-day period, and he was honorably discharged
13 in February 1969; and

14 WHEREAS, Returning to civilian life, Mr. Houdashell was
15 employed by Bell Helicopter for four years, and he also studied
16 journalism at Amarillo College and earned a business degree at West
17 Texas State University; in 1973, he joined KGNC Radio as an
18 agricultural reporter, and he went on to cover agriculture
19 nationally with the Radio Farm Directors; in addition, he produced
20 a weekly agricultural report for radio stations in four states, the
21 *American Cotton Network*; and

22 WHEREAS, In 1985, Mr. Houdashell embarked on a new career in
23 politics, serving first as district director for U.S.
24 Representative Beau Bolter and then as district director for State

1 Representative John Smithee, a position he held until he was
2 elected as Randall County judge in 2002; as head of the Randall
3 County commissioners court for 18 years, he oversaw the creation of
4 a new justice center, a new Amarillo annex, and a new fire station
5 and events center, and he also played a leading role in the
6 development of the Randall County Veterans Park and the Panhandle
7 War Memorial; and

8 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Houdashell benefited from
9 the love and support of his wife of 50 years, Sandy, and he took
10 great pride in his three children, Scott, Clay, and Michele, and his
11 six grandchildren, Jordyn, Beck, Alexander, Indeh, Elizabeth, and
12 Bridger; and

13 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, a proud veteran, and a true
14 champion for his community, Ernie Houdashell lived a rich and
15 purposeful life, and he leaves behind a legacy of service to others
16 that will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him; now,
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Ernie
20 Houdashell and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many
21 friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ernie
25 Houdashell.