

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Stone first joined the National Guard when he
21 was still in high school, training as an infantryman and tank
22 crewman; while living in Lubbock, he was promoted to full colonel
23 and served on active duty at Fort Sheridan, Illinois; he earned a
24 master's degree in military science and international relations

1 from the U.S. Army War College; in 1996, he was promoted to
2 brigadier general and served as assistant division commander for
3 support of the 49th Armored Division, which at the time was the
4 largest armored division in the world; his military awards included
5 the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Army
6 Commendation Medal; and

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

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

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Thomas Gerald Stone
22 and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and,
23 be it further

H.R. No. 1802

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Thomas
4 Stone.

Shine

H.R. No. 1802

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