

By: Shine

H.R. No. 1802

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

24       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Thomas  
27 Stone.