By: Kolkhorst

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S.C.R. No. 10

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Lloyd Herbert Hughes Jr., a graduate of Refugio High 3 School, demonstrated conspicuous gallantry in the skies over Europe 4 during World War II, sacrificing his life in defense of his nation 5 and earning the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in 1921 in Alexandria, Louisiana, Pete Hughes 7 attended Refugio High School, where he was both an academic star and 8 a letterman in several sports; after graduating in 1939, he went on 9 to study petroleum engineering at Texas A&M University; shortly 10 following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, he answered 11 his nation's call to duty by enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 12 and he trained as a bomber pilot; and

WHEREAS, Serving with the 564th Bombardment Squadron, 389th 13 Bombardment Group, 9th Air Force, Second Lieutenant Hughes was the 14 pilot of a B-24 Liberator nicknamed "Ole Kickapoo"; on August 1, 15 16 1943, he and his crew took part in Operation Tidal Wave, a daring, 17 low-level raid on the Axis oil fields in Ploiesti, Romania, conducted by 170 B-24 bombers; flying last in his formation over a 18 burning oil refinery that had already been hit, his plane was struck 19 by enemy antiaircraft fire and began to leak gasoline in two places; 20 21 and

22 WHEREAS, Knowing the consequences of flying his leaking plane 23 low enough to hit his assigned target, Lieutenant Hughes could have 24 broken off, but instead, he elected to complete his mission, flying

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1 into the inferno and dropping his bombs on the target; his plane 2 emerged with its left wing on fire, and Lieutenant Hughes and five 3 other members of his crew lost their lives while attempting a crash 4 landing in a riverbed near Câmpina, Romania; two additional crew 5 members later died of their injuries and two others were captured by 6 the enemy; and

7 WHEREAS, In recognition of his sacrifice and his dedication posthumously 8 to duty, Lieutenant Hughes was awarded the 9 Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award; his widow, Hazel Dean Hughes, was presented with the medal in April 10 11 1944, and the remains of Lieutenant Hughes were repatriated and buried in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio in April 12 13 1950; he is the only resident of Refugio ever to earn the Medal of Honor, and the Lloyd H. "Pete" Hughes Memorial Committee of the 14 15 Refugio ISD Education Foundation is leading an effort to recognize 16 his connection to Refugio by naming a portion of U.S. 77 in his honor and by installing a memorial at Refugio High School; and 17

WHEREAS, A proud son of Refugio, Lloyd Herbert Hughes Jr. paid the ultimate price while fighting for his country during the most far-reaching conflict in world history, and the citizens of his hometown, his state, and his nation owe him a debt of gratitude that the passage of time can never diminish; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby pay tribute to the heroism of U.S. Army Air Corps Second Lieutenant Lloyd Herbert Hughes Jr.; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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prepared for his family as an expression of high regard by the Texas
House of Representatives and Senate.