

By: Kolkhorst

S.C.R. No. 10

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

12 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 1943, he and his crew took part in Operation Tidal Wave, a daring,
16 low-level raid on the Axis oil fields in Ploiesti, Romania,
17 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 and

21 WHEREAS, Knowing the consequences of flying his leaking plane
22 low enough to hit his assigned target, Lieutenant Hughes could have
23 broken off, but instead, he elected to complete his mission, flying
24 into the inferno and dropping his bombs on the target; his plane

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

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

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

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

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for his family as an expression of high regard by the Texas

S.C.R. No. 10

1 House of Representatives and Senate.