

By: Zwiener

H.R. No. 88

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 100th birthday of an esteemed Texan and World
2 War II veteran is indeed cause for celebration, and retired U.S. Air
3 Force Lieutenant Colonel George C. Carruthers of San Marcos marked
4 that special milestone on October 19, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, George Carruthers was born in Dallas in 1923, and he
6 graduated from high school in Tyler and studied at Tyler Junior
7 College; after the attack on Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the
8 U.S. Army Air Corps and served with the 8th Air Force, 305th Bomb
9 Group, 422nd Bomb Squadron in England as a second lieutenant; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 14, 1943, Lieutenant Carruthers and his
11 B-17F Flying Fortress Windy City Challenger crew had completed a
12 bombing mission when their plane was attacked and crashed near
13 Lieusaint, France; seven crew members were killed, and Lieutenant
14 Carruthers and his fellow survivors were interrogated and sent to
15 the Stalag Luft III camp; in January 1945, Germany ordered its
16 evacuation, and prisoners of war were transferred to Stalag VII A;
17 the camp was liberated that same year; in 2010, the City of
18 Lieusaint dedicated a memorial to the Windy City Challenger crew of
19 which Lieutenant Carruthers is the last surviving member; and

20 WHEREAS, After the war, Lieutenant Carruthers fulfilled a
21 number of assignments, and he flew combat missions in Vietnam; he
22 retired in 1972 at the rank of lieutenant colonel, concluding a
23 distinguished career of three decades; his many awards include the
24 Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the World War II

1 Victory Medal, and in 2023, he was selected for the Order of the
2 Legion of Honor from France for his World War II service; in all his
3 endeavors, he has enjoyed the love and support of his wife,
4 Dr. Marilyn Gaddis; and

5 WHEREAS, Over the course of a century, George Carruthers has
6 not only bravely served his nation but has also met the challenges
7 and opportunities of a long life with grace and fortitude, and he is
8 blessed with the deep respect and lasting affection of a host of
9 loved ones; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
11 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate U.S. Air Force
12 (Ret.) Lieutenant Colonel George C. Carruthers on the joyous
13 occasion of his 100th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes
14 for continued happiness; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Mr. Carruthers as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.