

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 66

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will long cherish their memories
2 of William Bernard Collins Jr. of Gilmer, who passed away on
3 August 7, 2025, at the age of 93; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of William Bernard Collins Sr. and Louise
5 Pearl MacGregor Collins, Bill Collins was born in Branchville,
6 Maryland, on May 19, 1932, and he grew up with the companionship of
7 four siblings, Robert, Nathaniel, Norma, and Glen; after moving
8 with his family to Texas when he was a teenager, he attended Galena
9 Park High School, where he played football and baseball; in 1950, he
10 enlisted in the United States Navy and served his country during the
11 Korean War; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Collins subsequently embarked on a career as a
13 mechanical maintenance technician at Crown Cork & Seal Company in
14 Houston; he later transferred to Longview and settled in the rural
15 area of Gilmer, where he took pleasure in raising farm animals and
16 gardening; active in his community, he was a longtime member of
17 Lions Clubs International; he held many leadership roles at the
18 local and district levels of the organization, and he received the
19 prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship; he also served on the board of
20 the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville for several years, and he was a
21 member of Bethesda Lodge No. 142 in Gilmer; and

22 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Collins benefited from the
23 love and support of his wife, the former Lena Mae Mayo, with whom he
24 shared a rewarding marriage that spanned seven decades; together,

1 the couple raised two children, Debra and Terry, who preceded his
2 father in death, and with the passage of time, they welcomed two
3 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; after retiring,
4 Mr. Collins enjoyed traveling the country with his wife in their RV
5 and working at several national parks; he was passionate about
6 researching genealogy and collecting programs from the many church
7 and school events that his grandchildren participated in; and

8 WHEREAS, While the passing of Bill Collins brings
9 immeasurable sorrow to his family and friends, he leaves behind a
10 legacy that will forever be treasured by all those who held him
11 dear; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature, 2nd
13 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of William Bernard
14 Collins Jr. and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
15 family: to his wife, Lena Collins; to his daughter, Debra Lynn
16 Collins Staggs, and her husband, Larry; to his granddaughters,
17 Stephanie Baskin and her husband, Buck, and Danielle Watson and her
18 husband, Stephen; to his great-grandchildren, Hallie, Harper, and
19 Hope Watson and James, Niki, Selah, and Elijah Baskin; and to his
20 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
23 day, it do so in memory of Bill Collins.