

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 17

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends will forever treasure their  
2 memories of James Coley Cowden, who died on September 1, 2021, at  
3 the age of 78; and

4 WHEREAS, The descendant of a pioneering ranching family,  
5 Coley Cowden was born in Midland on September 11, 1942, to Allen and  
6 Olive Cowden, and he grew up with a sister, Emma Sue; he shared a  
7 rewarding marriage with his wife, the former Jeanie Tunstill, that  
8 spanned five and a half decades, and he was the proud father of  
9 three children, Christy, James, and Allen; with the passing years,  
10 he had the pleasure of seeing his family grow to include 10  
11 grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Cowden graduated from Midland High School and  
13 continued his education at The University of Texas at Austin, where  
14 he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity; he went on to enjoy a  
15 diverse and dynamic career in ranching, banking, and the petroleum  
16 industry, and in all his endeavors, he was known and respected for  
17 his honest and forthright manner; and

18 WHEREAS, A public-spirited citizen, Mr. Cowden was appointed  
19 by Governor William Clements to the Texas Commission on Alcohol and  
20 Drug Abuse and by Speaker Tom Craddick to the Texas State Cemetery  
21 Committee under Governor Rick Perry; he also served as president of  
22 The University of Texas Parents Association, as chair of the Palmer  
23 Drug Abuse Program in Midland, as board president of the Racquet  
24 Club of Midland, as a trustee of Trinity School of Midland, and as a

1 director of Texas American Bank; a man of strong religious  
2 conviction, he was an inspiring and deeply knowledgeable Bible  
3 study teacher; and

4 WHEREAS, A proud son of Midland, Coley Cowden lived a rich and  
5 purposeful life devoted to his family, his faith, and his  
6 community, and he leaves behind a legacy that will long be admired  
7 by all those who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
9 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of James Coley  
10 Cowden and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family:  
11 to his wife, Jeanie Cowden; to his children, Christy Cowden Little,  
12 James Coley Cowden Jr. and his wife, Heidi, and Allen Tunstill  
13 Cowden and his wife, Kristin; to his grandchildren, Jake and Olivia  
14 Little, Marilee, Clara Grace, Coley, Coulter, and Adelaide Cowden,  
15 and Jack, Luke, and Lucy Cowden; and to his other relatives and many  
16 friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
20 James Coley Cowden.