

By: Raney

H.R. No. 749

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Bryan lost a distinguished citizen with
2 the death of the Honorable William Thomas McDonald Jr. on February
3 17, 2021, at the age of 81; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Bryan on February 15, 1940, to W. T. and
5 Nonie McDonald, Tom McDonald earned his law degree from The
6 University of Texas at Austin in 1966; he married the former
7 Caroline Sweeney in 1965, and he took great pride in his sons, Scott
8 and Don, daughter-in-law, Amanda, and grandchildren, Hunter and
9 Grace; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the course of an outstanding career in the law,
11 Mr. McDonald served as assistant district attorney in Travis County
12 and as county attorney and district attorney in Brazos County; he
13 followed in his father's footsteps to become judge of the 85th
14 Judicial District, and since 1991 he had served throughout the
15 state as a senior district judge; he further contributed to his
16 profession as president of the Brazos County Bar Association; and

17 WHEREAS, A leader in his community, Judge McDonald was a
18 founder of Brazos County Humane Society, Brazos County Counseling
19 Service, and Boonville Heritage Park, and he held leadership roles
20 with the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Board and the Brazos
21 Valley Groundwater Conservation District; a man of strong religious
22 faith, he was an active member of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of
23 Bryan; he also was admired for his patriotism, his love of nature,
24 and his dedication to history, education, and the fair and just

1 application of the law; and

2 WHEREAS, Judge McDonald's numerous honors include the Samuel
3 Pessarra Outstanding Civil Jurist Award from the Texas Bar
4 Foundation, the Outstanding Criminal Jurist Award from the State
5 Bar of Texas, and the Silver Good Citizenship Award from the Sons of
6 Herrmann, among many others; and

7 WHEREAS, A respected jurist and an engaged citizen, Tom
8 McDonald lived a life that was rich in personal and professional
9 achievements, and he will forever be a source of inspiration to
10 those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Judge William
13 Thomas McDonald Jr. and extend sincere condolences to the members
14 of his family and to his many friends; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom
18 McDonald.