

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The city of Tyler lost an esteemed civic leader and a  
3 friend to many with the passing of Michael Phillip Smith on July 3,  
4 2020, at the age of 74; and

5 WHEREAS, A Fort Worth native, Michael Smith was born to Betty  
6 and Sam K. Smith on October 27, 1945; while still an undergrad at  
7 Texas Tech University, he was recruited by Lubbock's then-mayor,  
8 Dr. Jim Granberry, to work in city government; Mr. Smith became  
9 head of the health department and later served as top aide to Austin  
10 mayor Roy Butler; subsequently, he ran Dr. Granberry's  
11 gubernatorial campaign before joining a Dallas investment firm and  
12 opening his first business, the themed bar It's Magic; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith found the perfect outlet for his  
14 entrepreneurial spirit after Dr. Granberry hired him again for a  
15 marketing project in Tyler; noting that the community lacked an ad  
16 agency, Mr. Smith taught himself about the industry, and in 1977,  
17 he launched the Rénard Group out of an office building's  
18 maintenance closet; the firm grew to become a major player in the  
19 field of advertising, with a wide range of local, state, and  
20 national accounts; many of Mr. Smith's clients became close  
21 friends, and he personally invested in their dreams and helped them  
22 achieve their goals; expanding his business interests, he opened  
23 the State Bar and Deli and purchased *Tyler Today*, which he developed  
24 into a popular local interest magazine; he cared deeply about all

1 his employees and showed tremendous kindness to them through the  
2 years; and

3         WHEREAS, Highly engaged in civic life, Mr. Smith was active  
4 in the local Republican Party, managing and advising campaigns for  
5 office; in addition, he served several terms on the city planning  
6 commission and gave generously of his time and talents to  
7 worthwhile organizations, including Historic Tyler and the Order of  
8 the Rose; he led a group that championed the preservation of the  
9 trees along South Broadway Avenue, and he was a founding member of  
10 the city Crime Stoppers board; moreover, he served on the board of  
11 the Salvation Army of Tyler and several other nonprofits; and

12         WHEREAS, Mr. Smith married the love of his life, Dominique  
13 Cronin, in 1983, and they became the proud parents of a daughter,  
14 Désirée, and a son, Wyatt; devoted to his children, Mr. Smith  
15 instilled strong values in them during long and meaningful  
16 conversations, and he shared his great love of history on family  
17 trips around the world; in recent years, he found joy in precious  
18 moments with his treasured granddaughters, Christine and Victoria;  
19 he was a longtime member of Christ Episcopal Church and liked to  
20 discuss religion and sing hymns, though his volume was perhaps more  
21 commendable than his pitch; his gregarious, larger-than-life  
22 personality brought him myriad friendships, and he also found time  
23 to read voraciously; cherishing traditions of all kinds, he  
24 delighted in immutable holiday menus, Tuesday night poker games,  
25 and his annual St. Patrick's Day extravaganza, and he was loyal to  
26 the Dallas Cowboys, the New York Yankees, and his alma mater, R. L.  
27 Paschal High School; and

1           WHEREAS, Although the death of Michael Smith has brought  
2 great sorrow to those who loved him, they will continue to find  
3 inspiration in his warmth, generosity, and dedication to his  
4 family, his faith, and his community; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas  
6 hereby pay tribute to the memory of Michael Phillip Smith and extend  
7 sincere sympathy to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

8           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
10 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
11 Michael Smith.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 43 was adopted by the Senate on May 10, 2021, by a rising vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 43 was adopted by the House on May 14, 2021, by a rising vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor