

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 150

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Former State Representative Thomas Jefferson "Tom"
2 Martin Jr. passed away on October 30, 2023, at the age of 88,
3 bringing a great loss to his family and friends; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Alberta Martin and T. J. "Jeff" Martin
5 Sr., Tom Martin was born in Poteet on April 2, 1935; when he was
6 small, his family moved from Christine to George West to be closer
7 to the "big ranch," La Campana; after graduating from George West
8 High School, he decided to see some of the country, attending Texas
9 A&M University-Kingsville, the University of Nevada, and Kent State
10 University in Ohio; he completed his education at Oklahoma Baptist
11 University, where he met his future wife, the former Jean Jones;
12 their 54-year marriage was made even richer with the addition of a
13 daughter, Angela, and a son, T. J. "Jeff" Martin III; eventually,
14 their treasured family grew to include two grandchildren, T. J. and
15 Ray, the sixth generation of Martins in McMullen County; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Martin went to work with his father, managing
17 La Campana, which at one time extended over Live Oak, McMullen, and
18 Duval Counties, along with two smaller ranches, the Lopez in
19 Atascosa County and the Lawhorn in northern McMullen County; one of
20 the original advocates for the Santa Gertrudis Breeders
21 International cattle association, he won numerous awards for his
22 success in advancing "America's original beef breed"; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1976, Mr. Martin won election to the Texas House
24 of Representatives; during two terms in office, he served on a

1 number of committees, including Agriculture and Livestock, Energy
2 Resources, and the House Joint Committee on the State Energy Plan;
3 he was chair of the Energy Resources Subcommittee on Appropriative
4 Matters and vice chair of the Environmental Affairs Subcommittee on
5 Pollution Control; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Martin were enthusiastic world
7 travelers, and they went scuba diving in the South Pacific, cruised
8 the Nile, and explored European castles; an avid reader as well,
9 Mr. Martin was particularly interested in architecture, history,
10 and following his favorite basketball, baseball, and football
11 teams; he was preceded in death by his wife and his sister, Alberta
12 "Bette" Mason, as well as his parents; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Martin touched the lives of innumerable people
14 through his generosity and compassion, and although he is deeply
15 missed, his family and friends will forever treasure their memories
16 of his thoughtful nature, his wry sense of humor, and the honor and
17 humility with which he carried himself; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
19 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
20 the Honorable Thomas Jefferson "Tom" Martin Jr. and extend sincere
21 sympathy to the members of his family: Angela Martin, Chantel
22 Foretich, Jeff Martin III, Melaine Martin, Jamie Locke, Glenda
23 Locke, T. J. Martin IV, and Ray Martin; and to his many other
24 relatives and friends; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom Martin.