

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 4

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable Walter David Counts Jr. of Knox City,  
2 a former state representative and brevet brigadier general in the  
3 Texas Army National Guard, passed away on August 18, 2023, at the  
4 age of 87; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Munday on July 14, 1936, David Counts was the  
6 son of Walter and Alma Counts; he grew up in Rule and attended West  
7 Texas State College and North Texas State College; in 1953, he  
8 joined the Texas Army National Guard, and over the course of 32  
9 years in the military, he attained the rank of colonel;  
10 then-governor George W. Bush promoted him to brevet brigadier  
11 general following his retirement; among other honors, he received  
12 the General K. L. Bailey Award for heroism and the Minute Man Award  
13 for outstanding service; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Counts wed the love of his life, the former Mary  
15 Mullins, on July 15, 1956; they became the proud parents of two  
16 children, Patti and David, and through the years, their family grew  
17 to include four grandchildren, Seth, Jennifer, Sarah, and Matthew,  
18 as well as eight great-grandchildren; and

19           WHEREAS, Settling in Knox City, Mr. Counts established Counts  
20 Insurance Agency in 1960; he operated the business for 35 years, and  
21 he also founded Counts Real Estate; in addition, he owned a  
22 bookkeeping and tax service for a decade and grew wheat and cotton  
23 in Knox, Stonewall, and Haskell Counties; he served as vice  
24 president and director of Rolling Plains Well Service, as president

1 and chair of Chap Operating Company, as director and treasurer of  
2 Perry Pump Service, and as a director of both First Bank of West  
3 Texas and Western Bancshares; moreover, he was a member of the board  
4 of the Texas Association of Realtors; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Counts was first elected to the Texas House of  
6 Representatives in 1988, and for the next 15 years, he worked  
7 tirelessly in behalf of his constituents, who resided primarily in  
8 the North Central Plains region; he chaired the Natural Resources  
9 Committee for a decade, co-chaired the Water Resources Committee,  
10 and served on many other committees, including the Insurance,  
11 Redistricting, and State Affairs Committees; he authored a  
12 constitutional amendment to exempt Masonic lodges from ad valorem  
13 taxes; and

14 WHEREAS, A member of the Masons for more than six decades, Mr.  
15 Counts was raised to the degree of Master Mason in 1961, and he  
16 served three separate terms as Worshipful Master; he began his  
17 association with the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1971 and rose to become  
18 Most Worshipful Grand Master, the highest office in Texas Masonry,  
19 in 2008; he gave generously of his time and talents to a host of  
20 Masonic groups, and he served as treasurer of Masonic Children &  
21 Family Services of Texas and as a trustee of Scottish Rite for  
22 Children; the recipient of numerous honors, he was inducted into  
23 the Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Texas Sam Houston Hall  
24 of Fame and served as a patron of the library and museum; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Counts also contributed to the greater community  
26 through his longtime service as a director of the Knox City Chamber  
27 of Commerce and as a member of the Knox City Lions Club; he

1 benefited higher education as a member of several boards, including  
2 the development board of Hardin-Simmons University; he was a valued  
3 congregant of First Baptist Church of Knox City and gave generously  
4 of his time and resources to Gideons International; and

5 WHEREAS, David Counts lived a life that was rich in public  
6 service and in personal and professional achievements, and his  
7 contributions will be remembered and admired for years to come;  
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
10 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Walter David  
11 Counts Jr. and extend sincere condolences to the members of his  
12 family: to his wife, Mary Counts; to his children, Patti Counts  
13 Holmes and her husband, Steve, and David Counts III and his wife,  
14 Jill; to his grandchildren, Seth Barnett and his wife, Jenni,  
15 Jennifer McCann and her husband, Josh, Sarah Grace and her husband,  
16 Jacob, and Matthew Counts and his wife, Allie; to his eight  
17 great-grandchildren; to his sister, Cheryl Robinson, and her  
18 husband, Bobby; and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be  
19 it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
22 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
23 David Counts.