

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 89

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a much-admired lawmaker and
2 a friend to many with the death of former House Speaker Pro Tempore
3 D. R. "Tom" Uher of Bay City on March 9, 2019, at the age of 81; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Alfonso A. Uher and May Bittick Uher, Tom
5 Uher was born in Bay City in 1937, and he grew up with the
6 companionship of three siblings, Doris, LaVerne, and Myrna; he
7 attended The University of Texas, earning a bachelor's degree in
8 business administration in 1960 and a doctor of jurisprudence in
9 1962; he went on to establish his own law practice in Bay City and
10 continued to serve his clients for 55 years; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1967, Representative Uher won a special election
12 to the House on his 30th birthday, December 16; his constituents in
13 Matagorda, Wharton, and Brazoria Counties would reelect him 17
14 times, and he served as speaker pro tempore from the 73rd through
15 77th Legislatures; over the course of more than three decades in
16 office, he chaired a number of committees, among them State Affairs
17 and Redistricting, and he served on many others as well, such as the
18 Public Education, Higher Education, and Ways and Means Committees;
19 he was instrumental in the passage of Senate Bill 438, which
20 excepted the expansion of Darrell K. Royal Texas Memorial Stadium
21 from the Capitol view corridor guidelines, and he also took special
22 pride in the passage of a bill he authored that granted MD Anderson
23 Cancer Center patients access to care without referrals; and

24 WHEREAS, Charming and collegial, Representative Uher earned

1 the affection of all his colleagues; he commonly ended
2 conversations by calling others "a great American," and he himself
3 became fondly known as "the Great American"; he left the
4 legislature in 2003 as the dean of the house, and he continued to
5 share his wisdom and experience as a mentor to his friends and
6 fellow elected officials; when not working, he enjoyed spending
7 time outdoors, coaching Little League, teaching Bible study at the
8 First Presbyterian Church, and watching football, especially his
9 beloved Longhorns; and

10 WHEREAS, Representative Uher shared a rewarding marriage of
11 more than five and a half decades with his wife, Ann Hagaman Uher,
12 and they were blessed with two daughters, Christi Joe and Catherine
13 Ann, and a son, Robert, as well as two grandsons, Christopher Joseph
14 and Noah Carl Uher; and

15 WHEREAS, Through his steadfast dedication to public service,
16 Tom Uher made a lasting, positive impact in the lives of innumerable
17 Texans, and his contributions will be remembered for years to come;
18 now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable D. R.
21 "Tom" Uher and extend sincere condolences to the many people in
22 Texas and beyond whose lives he forever enriched; and, be it further

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