

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a legendary Texas business leader and
2 philanthropist drew to a close with the passing of B. J. "Red"
3 McCombs of San Antonio on February 19, 2023; and

4 WHEREAS, Born Billy Joe McCombs in Spur on October 19, 1927,
5 Red McCombs learned the importance of giving at an early age as his
6 parents made weekly donations at their church and helped people of
7 even more modest means survive the Great Depression; he attended
8 Southwestern University on a football scholarship before serving in
9 the army during World War II; subsequently, he studied business and
10 law at The University of Texas at Austin under the G.I. Bill; his
11 monumental career in auto sales began almost by accident; after
12 agreeing to take a corporate job, he found himself with time on his
13 hands before it started, and so he joined a friend who was selling
14 cars at a Corpus Christi Ford dealership; the work perfectly suited
15 his high energy, bigger-than-life personality, and he quickly
16 became a star salesman and then struck off on his own, opening
17 McCombs Used Cars in Corpus Christi in 1953; and

18 WHEREAS, When his former boss asked for his help with a
19 struggling San Antonio dealership, he restored it to profitability
20 and became the owner; Mr. McCombs also kept his promise to set up
21 his five founding salesmen with their own dealerships; eventually,
22 he expanded his auto holdings to more than 60 stores; applying his
23 business expertise to other fields, he cofounded a radio empire,
24 Clear Channel Communications, now known as iHeartMedia, and his

1 portfolio grew to include more than 400 businesses in such
2 industries as real estate, energy, and sports; and

3 WHEREAS, Having adopted San Antonio as his hometown,
4 Mr. McCombs sought to raise its profile; he used his connections to
5 enhance HemisFair '68 and began his quest to bring professional
6 sports to the city; with a group of bold speculators, he made a deal
7 to acquire an NBA team, and although the San Antonio Spurs endured
8 some difficult early years, they became a source of pride for local
9 residents; Mr. McCombs owned the team two separate times, finally
10 selling it when he had secured its future in the community; in
11 addition, he owned the Denver Nuggets and the Minnesota Vikings,
12 and he was a major investor in the Circuit of the Americas racetrack
13 in Austin, site of the Formula 1 U.S. Grand Prix; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. McCombs was an extraordinarily generous
15 benefactor to UT Austin; in 1999, he gave \$50 million to the
16 business school, which was renamed in his honor; he also helped fund
17 the UT softball stadium, which was named for him and his wife,
18 Charline, and the renovation and expansion of the north side of
19 DKR-Texas Memorial Stadium, which was rebranded as the Red McCombs
20 Red Zone; he received a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Texas
21 Exes in 1998; named a Distinguished Alumnus by Southwestern
22 University as well, he chaired its board of trustees from 1992 to
23 2000, and he and his family made the largest alumni gift in the
24 school's history to build the Red & Charline McCombs Campus Center;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, In 2005, Mr. and Mrs. McCombs donated \$30 million to
27 MD Anderson to establish the Institute for the Early Detection and

1 Treatment of Cancer; moreover, he gave tens of millions of dollars
2 to San Antonio organizations, often to alleviate a dire need he had
3 read or heard about; learning of a fire at Mary Hull Elementary
4 School, which was already in danger of closure, he became an
5 enthusiastic supporter of the campus, hosting pep rallies before
6 school tests and mentoring teachers; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. McCombs shared a deeply fulfilling marriage of
8 69 years with the love of his life, the former Charline Hamblin;
9 they made every major decision as partners, whether in business
10 ventures or charitable endeavors; the couple were the proud parents
11 of three daughters, Lynda, Marsha, and Connie, and through the
12 years, their treasured family grew to include 8 grandchildren and
13 11 great-grandchildren; Mrs. McCombs passed away in 2019; and

14 WHEREAS, While the death of Red McCombs has deprived the
15 state of one of its foremost entrepreneurs and philanthropists, his
16 remarkable legacy will resonate for years to come, and those he
17 leaves behind will forever treasure their memories of time spent in
18 his company; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of B. J. "Red" McCombs
21 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
22 daughters, Lynda McCombs, Marsha Shields and her husband, John H.,
23 and Connie McNab and her husband, Sandy; to his grandchildren,
24 Carson Rubey IV and his wife, Cristina, Chloe Shands and her
25 husband, Matt, Anna Turner and her husband, Chris, Joe Shields and
26 his wife, Andrea, Charles McNab, Sita McNab, Ian McNab and his wife,
27 Alicia, and Easton McNab and his wife, Claire; to his

1 great-grandchildren, Carson Rubey V, Townsend Shands, Christopher
2 Turner, Zachary Turner, Charlotte Shields, Stella McNab, Wylie
3 McNab, Ewan McNab, Billie McNab, Marianne McNab, and Isabella
4 McNab; to his sister, LaWanda McCombs; and to his other relatives
5 and many friends; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
8 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Red
9 McCombs.

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H.R. No. 370

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 370 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 16, 2023.

Chief Clerk of the House