

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 618

In Memory
of
Red McCombs

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Billy Joe "Red" McCombs, a celebrated Texas entrepreneur and philanthropist, who died February 19, 2023, at the age of 95; and

WHEREAS, Billy Joe McCombs, dubbed "Red" for his red hair, was born on October 19, 1927, in the small West Texas town of Spur; descended from families of farmers, Red was taught the value of hard work when he started his first business at the age of nine; his unstoppable ambition, keen business sense, and larger-than-life personality made him a legendary figure in American industry and sports management, and his philanthropy made the McCombs name synonymous with generosity as well as excellence; and

WHEREAS, A successful football player during high school in Corpus Christi, Red earned a scholarship to attend Southwestern University in Georgetown; he paused his college education to serve his country with distinction in the United States Army for two years before returning to enroll at The University of Texas under the GI Bill; and

WHEREAS, Realizing his true calling as a businessman, Red left school and returned to Corpus Christi, where he sold cars at the Ford dealership and excelled as a salesman through his determination and charisma; he opened his first car dealership at the age of 29 in 1957, and the Red McCombs Automotive Group quickly expanded into an automotive empire; the enterprise became the largest car dealership network in Texas and the sixth-largest network in the nation; and

WHEREAS, A talented entrepreneur and a shrewd media visionary, Red purchased San Antonio radio stations in 1972 with his business partner, Lowry Mays, and together they founded Clear Channel Communications; Red's intuition for franchise expansion and his experience in business and advertising helped the company to grow into the world's largest radio station conglomerate and to become a dominating power in the industries of outdoor advertising, live music, and sports management; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Red purchased the Dallas Chaparrals basketball team and relocated the team to San Antonio under a new name, the Spurs; widely recognized as a trailblazer in sports management, Red turned the Spurs and the Denver Nuggets into national powerhouses and played a key role in shaping the modern incarnation of the National Basketball Association; he spent a number of years as the owner of the National Football League's Minnesota Vikings, and by investing in Circuit of the Americas, he was instrumental in the establishment of Formula One racing in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Generous community benefactors, Red and his wife, Charline, donated \$50 million to The University of Texas business school, which was renamed the McCombs School of Business, and \$30 million to the university's MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston; Red was a champion for education, and his philanthropy created countless opportunities for students and young entrepreneurs in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Red was blessed with the love and support of his late wife, Charline, for almost seven decades; together, they were figureheads in the San Antonio community and were greatly involved in both state and national politics; Red and Charline were blessed with three daughters, Lynda McCombs, Marsha Shields, and Connie McNab, and he cherished his eight grandchildren and his 11 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, An esteemed civic leader and a titan of industry who created more than 400 businesses, Red McCombs changed the American automotive trade, professional athletics, advertising, and radio broadcasting; he embodied the spirit of the Lone Star State through his love of thinking big and his zest for deal-making and adventure, and he leaves behind an inspiring legacy for all Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Billy Joe "Red" McCombs; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of "Red" McCombs.

Campbell

Alvarado	Hinojosa	Nichols
Bettencourt	Huffman	Parker
Birdwell	Hughes	Paxton
Blanco	Johnson	Perry
Creighton	King	Schwertner
Eckhardt	Kolkhorst	Sparks
Flores	LaMantia	Springer
Gutierrez	Menéndez	West
Hall	Middleton	Whitmire
Hancock	Miles	Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2023, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate