WHEREAS, Residents of Weatherford lost an admired fellow citizen with the passing of former state representative and longtime educator W. G. Coody on March 24, 2013, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Born in Wallis on May 8, 1934, to Amelia and James Coody, "Bill" Coody graduated from Wallis High School in 1951 and went on to pursue additional course work at Wharton County Junior College; in 1955, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was stationed for three years at England Air Force Base in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Returning to civilian life, he resumed his studies and attended Sam Houston State University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science; he began his teaching career in Iago public schools and in 1963, he moved into the field of higher education in the social sciences department of Weatherford College; and

WHEREAS, In 1972, Mr. Coody successfully ran for a seat in the state legislature; he represented District 63, which at the time encompassed Parker County and a portion of Tarrant County, and he was admired for his integrity and his faithful service to his constituents, who returned him to office for five successive terms; well-known for his ability to defuse tense situations through his good humor, he forged close and lasting friendships with his colleagues in Austin, and in his final session, he had the
distinction of being named a Texas Monthly "Ten Best" legislator;
and
WHEREAS, After more than a decade in office, Mr. Coody departed from public service and eventually returned to the classroom at Weatherford College; during his 15 remaining years there, he was popular among students for his masterful ability to bring to life all manner of historical lessons, with his classes commonly the first on the roster to fill; on retiring in 2010, he was granted faculty emeritus status; and
WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan was blessed with the support of a loving family, including his high school sweetheart and wife of nearly six decades, Sue; the couple became the parents of three children, Cathy, Sam, and Jim, and over the years, they also welcomed into their family four treasured grandchildren, Claire, Jacob, Ethan, and Caitlin; and
WHEREAS, Though it is impossible to gauge the full effect of a man's life, some people leave their unmistakable mark on the world as they move through it, and Bill Coody's contributions will long resonate in the lives of all who knew him; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable W. G. "Bill" Coody and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Sue Coody; to his children, Cathy Zellers and her husband, Ed, and Sam Coody and his wife, Lisa; to his grandchildren, Claire Varnon and her husband, Richard, Jacob Coody, Ethan Lucas Coody, and Caitlin Zellers and her fiance, Matthew Cobb; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it
RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill Coody.

King of Parker
H.R. No. 2624

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2624 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 24, 2013.

Chief Clerk of the House