

By: Allen

H.R. No. 197

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Cleburne community lost a beloved resident when  
2 James R. "Jim" Atchley passed away on August 31, 2003, at the age of  
3 74; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on July 2, 1929, in Cleburne, Mr. Atchley  
5 graduated from Cleburne High School in 1947; this native son  
6 remained deeply involved in the Cleburne community throughout his  
7 life as a member of the Cleburne Yellow Jacket Booster Club, as a  
8 33rd-degree Mason with Cleburne Masonic Lodge No. 315, and as a  
9 congregant at Field St. Baptist Church, where he belonged to the  
10 Tent Makers Class and the Joyful Sound Choir; Mr. Atchley also  
11 played in the WST Bluegrass Band and acted as master of ceremonies  
12 for bluegrass festivals in Glen Rose; and

13           WHEREAS, In April of 1948, Mr. Atchley began a 48-year tenure  
14 with the Santa Fe Railroad as a freight brakeman, earning a  
15 promotion to conductor and receiving switchman's seniority in 1960;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, An esteemed member of the former Brotherhood of  
18 Railroad Trainmen and the United Transportation Union (UTU), Mr.  
19 Atchley served as local legislative representative, member of the  
20 local board of trustees, secretary of the Texas Legislative Board,  
21 and assistant state legislative director; on January 1, 1988, he  
22 assumed the office of state legislative director and was  
23 subsequently elected to two four-year terms; and

24           WHEREAS, During his time with the UTU, Mr. Atchley worked

1 with Governors Dolph Briscoe, Mark White, Bill Clements, Ann  
2 Richards, and George Bush, helping to pass legislation that  
3 benefited UTU members and their families and created better working  
4 conditions for rail and bus employees; and

5 WHEREAS, A positive influence in the lives of countless  
6 Texans, Mr. Atchley leaves behind a legacy of good works that will  
7 not soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
9 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
10 James R. Atchley and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his  
11 family: to his son, Gary Atchley and his wife, Mindy; to his  
12 daughter, Debbe Prater and her husband, Mike; to his sister,  
13 Janelle Green; to his sister-in-law, Betty Jo Atchley; to his  
14 grandchildren, David Atchley, Kevin Atchley and his wife, Annette,  
15 Tommy Atchley and his wife, Caren, Cole Prater, and Curt Prater; to  
16 his great-grandchildren, Kaitlyn Atchley, Zoe Atchley, and Hayley  
17 Atchley; to his special friend, Ona Pritchard; and to his other  
18 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jim  
22 Atchley.