

By: Stick

H.C.R. No. 14

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, John Goodwin Tower served Texas and the nation  
2 capably for approximately two dozen years in the United States  
3 Senate, and his election to that office was largely responsible for  
4 a transition of this state's politics to two-party competitiveness;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Houston on September 29, 1925, the son of a  
7 Methodist minister, Tower spent his youth in various East Texas  
8 communities and graduated from Beaumont High School in 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, After freshman studies at Southwestern University  
10 in Georgetown, he enlisted in June 1943 in the U.S. Navy and spent  
11 three years in the western Pacific on an amphibious gunboat; and

12 WHEREAS, The young veteran returned to Texas to continue  
13 college at Southwestern and earned a B.A. degree in political  
14 science in 1948, supporting himself both then and following  
15 graduation as a radio announcer on KTAE in Taylor; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1949 John Tower enrolled in graduate classes at  
17 Southern Methodist University and finished his course work in 1951;  
18 shortly thereafter, he was hired as an assistant professor of  
19 political science at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls; and

20 WHEREAS, Continuing his education at the London School of  
21 Economics in 1952 and 1953, he completed a master's thesis on the  
22 British Conservative Party and received his M.A. from Southern  
23 Methodist University; and

24 WHEREAS, A Republican since 1948, John Tower entered politics

1 in 1954 and won his first election when he secured a U.S. Senate  
2 seat in a 1961 special election following Senator Lyndon Johnson's  
3 succession to the vice presidency, becoming the first Republican  
4 senator from Texas, or from the South, since Reconstruction; and

5 WHEREAS, Reelected three times, Senator Tower distinguished  
6 himself as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he  
7 served from 1965 to 1985, including three years as committee chair  
8 in the period immediately leading up to his congressional  
9 retirement; and

10 WHEREAS, His U.S. Senate career is best summarized by a  
11 passage from The Handbook of Texas:

12 He worked to strengthen and modernize the  
13 nation's defenses . . . . He worked to  
14 stimulate economic growth, improve  
15 opportunities for small business, improve  
16 transportation systems, and encourage  
17 strong financial institutions and systems.  
18 He was also concerned with promoting  
19 prosperity in agriculture, the energy  
20 industry, the fishing and maritime  
21 industries, and other areas of commerce  
22 particularly important to Texas;

23 and

24 WHEREAS, In the late 1980s, during the presidency of Ronald  
25 Reagan, Tower spent 15 months as the chief U.S. negotiator at  
26 strategic arms reduction talks in Geneva, Switzerland, and another  
27 three months as chair of a special review board on the Iran-Contra  
28 affair; and

29 WHEREAS, He long continued his affiliation with Southwestern  
30 University, receiving an honorary doctorate from that institution  
31 and serving on its board of trustees from 1968 until his untimely  
32 death in a commuter plane accident near New Brunswick, Georgia, on

1 April 5, 1991; and

2 WHEREAS, Section 2165.005, Government Code, establishes a  
3 procedure for the naming of state office buildings, requiring a  
4 combination of Texas Building and Procurement Commission  
5 submission and legislative authorization and approval; and

6 WHEREAS, Members of the Texas House of Representatives and  
7 Texas Senate find John Goodwin Tower to have been a significant  
8 individual in the state's history, befitting lasting commemoration  
9 of his life by the renaming of an office building in the Capitol  
10 Complex; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
12 4th Called Session, contingent on submission of a name change  
13 proposal by the Texas Building and Procurement Commission, hereby  
14 approve and authorize a renaming of the State Insurance Building,  
15 located on the northwest corner of 11th and San Jacinto, as the John  
16 G. Tower State Office Building; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official  
18 copy of this resolution to the chair of the Texas Building and  
19 Procurement Commission.