

By: Talton

H.C.R. No. 24

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of the Honorable John Ray Harrison,
2 Sr., of Pasadena on December 22, 2001, at the age of 71, the State of
3 Texas lost a longtime and much-esteemed public figure; and

4 WHEREAS, This native Texan was born in Abilene on August 2,
5 1930, and graduated from Abilene High School; he later earned a
6 bachelor's degree from McMurry College and a doctor of
7 jurisprudence degree from South Texas School of Law; and

8 WHEREAS, A practicing attorney for more than a
9 quarter-century, Mr. Harrison was elected to the Texas House of
10 Representatives in 1964; he was named Outstanding Freshman Member
11 during the 59th Legislature, and his achievements in office
12 included passage of a bill raising the age for compulsory school
13 attendance to 17 years and a bill that became a model for municipal
14 ordinances requiring fences at public pools; and

15 WHEREAS, After serving on the Pasadena City Council for four
16 years beginning in 1969, Mr. Harrison was elected mayor in 1973 and
17 again in 1977, 1985, and 1989; during his outstanding tenure, he
18 succeeded in constructing and renovating ballparks around the city
19 and worked diligently to improve the quality of life for his
20 constituents; from 1978 to 1985, Mr. Harrison served as a Texas
21 state district judge for Harris County; and

22 WHEREAS, Widely respected for his able leadership, John Ray
23 Harrison shared his time and energy generously with both
24 professional and community organizations; a former president of the

1 Pasadena Bar Association, he also led the Harris County Mayors and
2 Councils Association; and

3 WHEREAS, Other organizations that benefited from his active
4 involvement include the Neighborhood Center, YMCA, Pasadena
5 National Little League, and Pasadena Teenage Baseball, in addition
6 to the Pasadena Rodeo Association and the Pasadena Barrister's Fast
7 Pitch Association; he was, moreover, a valued member of the city's
8 First United Methodist Church; and

9 WHEREAS, For his efforts, Mr. Harrison was named Pasadena's
10 Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1960 and the city's Outstanding
11 Male Citizen in 1980; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison's devotion to his fellow Texans was
13 surpassed only by his love of family, which included his wife of 53
14 years, Barbara, seven children, and eight cherished grandchildren;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, One of the most prominent individuals in Pasadena
17 public life for the past four decades, John Ray Harrison worked
18 tenaciously for the betterment of his community, and the legacy he
19 left behind lives on in the hearts and minds of the many people
20 whose lives he touched; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby pay tribute to the life of John Ray Harrison, Sr., and extend
23 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Barbara
24 Harrison; to his sons and daughters-in-law, John Ray and Cyndi
25 Harrison, Michael and Susan Harrison, Kipper Harrison, and Robert
26 and Kelly Harrison; to his daughters and sons-in-law, Donna and
27 Greg Upchurch, Nikki and Donald Caffey, and Nancy and Jim Farries;

1 to his brothers, Ben and Don Harrison; and to his grandchildren,
2 other relatives, and many friends; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
5 of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory
6 of John Ray Harrison, Sr.

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1 In memory of John Ray Harrison, Sr., of Pasadena.