

By: Cook of Colorado

H.R. No. 788

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of the Honorable I. J. Irvin, Jr., of
2 Glen Flora on December 12, 2002, at the age of 83, has brought a
3 profoundly felt loss to the relatives and countless friends of this
4 beloved Texan; and

5 WHEREAS, A graduate of Wharton High School, Judge Irvin
6 attended Texas A&M University, completed his undergraduate degree
7 at the University of Maryland, graduated from the Army War College,
8 and pursued advanced studies at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh;
9 in 1941 he embarked on a successful career in the United States
10 Army, one that would ultimately span 33 years and include service
11 during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam before his retirement as a
12 colonel; and

13 WHEREAS, On his return to civilian life in his hometown of
14 Glen Flora, Judge Irvin launched a real estate business and became
15 an active and revered civic leader; the executive director of the
16 Wharton Chamber of Commerce for five years, he served on the boards
17 of the Wharton Independent School District, Houston-Galveston Area
18 Council, Wharton County Central Appraisal District, Wharton County
19 Industrial Development Corporation, and Southeast Texas Housing
20 Finance Corporation; he was also a devoted member of the community
21 of faith at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Wharton and was
22 instrumental in the creation of the St. Thomas Episcopal School;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, In 1984 he took office as county judge, and this

1 marked the beginning of a 10-year tenure during which he would
2 become known as a passionate and effective champion for the
3 citizens of Wharton County; Judge Irvin is especially remembered
4 for the role he played in blocking the creation of a hazardous waste
5 site in the Boling salt dome; in addition, he developed a Federal
6 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plan for the county, introduced
7 the Wharton County Crime Stoppers program, and helped to create the
8 Riceland Regional Mental Health Authority, the area's first agency
9 dedicated to the treatment of mental illness; and

10 WHEREAS, Those who were privileged to know Judge Irvin will
11 not soon forget the integrity and intelligence he brought to every
12 challenge he undertook; although his presence is gone from us now,
13 his memory will endure in the hearts of all those whose lives he
14 touched, and his legacy will live on in the county he was so proud to
15 call home; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable I. J.
18 Irvin, Jr., and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his
19 family: to his wife, Shirley Irvin; to his daughters and
20 sons-in-law, Linda and Raymond Smith, Kaye Ellen and John Connor,
21 and Candice and Dr. H. L. Whitley; to his stepchildren, Chris
22 Eastwood, V. J. Eastwood, and Chuck and Becky Eastwood; to his
23 sister and brother-in-law, Betty Parr and E. C. Muegge; to his
24 sister-in-law, Kip Wooldridge; to his 9 grandchildren and 10
25 great-grandchildren; and to his many other relatives and friends;
26 and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
2 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
3 Honorable I. J. Irvin, Jr.