

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 800

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The untimely passing of Sam Attlesey of Austin on  
2 April 2, 2003, at the age of 56, has deeply saddened the family and  
3 many friends of this esteemed journalist; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of Sulphur Springs, Mr. Attlesey graduated  
5 from Baylor University with a degree in government and from East  
6 Texas State University, now Texas A&M University--Commerce, with a  
7 degree in journalism; and

8           WHEREAS, Early in his career, he worked as a general  
9 assignment reporter for the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, where he won  
10 a Headliners Award in 1974 for a profile of a gubernatorial  
11 candidate; the following year he joined the *Dallas Morning News*,  
12 which was to become his journalistic home for nearly three decades;  
13 originally assigned to cover local government and politics, he was  
14 named political reporter in 1981, transferred to the Capitol bureau  
15 in 1985, and appointed deputy Capitol bureau chief in 1989; and

16           WHEREAS, The *Columbia Journalism Review* designated Mr.  
17 Attlesey a Sage of the Statehouse, in tribute to his extensive  
18 knowledge of Texas politics and its practitioners; in addition to  
19 his comprehensive understanding of the state's political  
20 landscape, he was also admired for his fairness; the weekly  
21 political column he wrote reflected the utmost integrity with which  
22 Sam Attlesey lived his life and for which he was widely admired by  
23 colleagues as well as by the subjects of his reporting; and

24           WHEREAS, Mr. Attlesey enjoyed a particular camaraderie with

1 Governor Bill Clements, with whom he shared a deep love of Texas  
2 history; he faithfully attended the annual reenactment of the  
3 Battle of the Alamo and could recite from memory John Wayne's  
4 soliloquies from the 1960 movie; a fan of the Chicago Cubs baseball  
5 team, one of his few non-Texas-related interests, Mr. Attlesey was  
6 also a regular with a group of friends at the Texas Chili Parlor in  
7 downtown Austin; and

8 WHEREAS, The life of Sam Attlesey has been an immeasurable  
9 blessing to his family, his friends, and the citizens of Texas, and  
10 he will long be remembered for his honesty, gentle spirit, and  
11 decency by all who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Sam Attlesey and  
14 extend sincere sympathy to his mother, Judy Attlesey; to his  
15 sister, Carole Wilks; to his nephew, Damon Wilks; and to all those  
16 who mourn the passing of this beloved man; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sam  
20 Attlesey.