

By: McReynolds

H.R. No. 849

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The untimely passing of Alfred Cherry "Bubba" Thomas
2 on January 17, 2002, at the age of 59, has brought a profound sense
3 of loss to his loved ones and to the many families he benefited as a
4 volunteer pilot; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on October 9, 1942, in Sinton, Mr. Thomas was a
6 graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University; he relocated to
7 Austin in 1973 with his wife and children and, during the next two
8 decades, was employed as an appraiser with Austin Savings and Loan
9 and founded Thomas Custom Homes and Thomas Building Corporation; a
10 short time before his passing, he had completed the construction of
11 luxury townhomes in Sinton and was working on plans for the city's
12 new public library; and

13 WHEREAS, When his father became ill in 1990, Mr. Thomas moved
14 back to Sinton to help manage the family's farming and ranching
15 operations in San Patricio County; he became active in his hometown
16 community, serving as board president of the Sinton Chamber of
17 Commerce, board member of the Coastal Bend Community Foundation,
18 and member of the Sinton Rotary Club; he also helped numerous young
19 people through his generous support of Future Farmers of America
20 and 4-H; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas gave further of his time and energy to
22 the Stephen F. Austin State University Alumni Association, the
23 Pepperdine University Foundation, St. Jude's Hospital, and Trikes
24 for Tots; in addition, he was affiliated with Phi Delta Theta

1 Fraternity and the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers
2 Association; and

3 WHEREAS, After earning his pilot's license in the early
4 1990s, Mr. Thomas often flew family and friends on special outings,
5 but it was his exceptional service as a volunteer pilot for Angel
6 Flight of South Texas, Legacy of Life, and Miracle Flights for Kids
7 that made him a hero in the hearts of countless young patients and
8 their families; the photos he took of his young passengers were a
9 way he could remember each special child, while the pictures he sent
10 the children served as souvenirs of their plane ride, often their
11 first such experience; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the past decade, he had flown more than 40,000
13 passenger miles for Miracle Flights alone, delivering 117
14 individuals to medical facilities for vital treatment; for his
15 unwavering dedication to helping critically ill babies and
16 children, he received a bronze medallion from the American
17 Institute for Public Service and a 1996 *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*
18 Jefferson Volunteer Award; and

19 WHEREAS, On January 17, Mr. Thomas had completed a medical
20 mission in behalf of a four-year-old boy and was just a block from
21 his home near the Sinton airport when his plane went down,
22 tragically ending the life of this exceptional individual; and

23 WHEREAS, Though Bubba Thomas is deeply missed by all who knew
24 him, his memory lives on in the hearts and minds of the many people
25 whose lives he so deeply touched; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Alfred "Bubba" Thomas

1 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
2 wife of 35 years, Florence "Flossie" Thomas; to his son, Wendell
3 Joseph Thomas; to his daughters and son-in-law, Jessica Jones
4 Thomas, Jennifer Lynn Thomas-Adams, and Eric Adams; to his
5 grandson, Austin Thomas Adams; to his mother and stepfather, Joye
6 Dehnisch Thomas and Ray Harris; to his sister, Joye Lynn Thomas; and
7 to the many other friends and relatives of this beloved man; and, be
8 it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Alfred
12 Cherry "Bubba" Thomas.