

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 1677

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, James Parker of Abilene was born in Roby, Texas, in
2 1930 as the second child of C.A. and Euna Magee Parker, who were
3 great influences in his life and instilled in him the heartfelt need
4 to give to others; and

5 WHEREAS, His mother encouraged him at the age of 11 to go to
6 work at a Sweetwater, Texas, grocery store owned by Sam Glass, where
7 he learned how to be a stocker, sacker, and all-around handyman, not
8 knowing that it would be his life work; and

9 WHEREAS, He graduated from Sweetwater Newman High School in
10 1947 and went on to Hardin-Simmons University, where he met the love
11 of his life, Cynthia Ann Pearson of Lamesa, Texas, in his senior
12 year, and they were married less than one year later; and

13 WHEREAS, Their loving children, Jimmy, Terri, Carla, and
14 Paige, have been a constant source of joy and pride to the Parkers
15 over the years and have blessed them with grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Parker became a business partner with his
17 mentor, Sam Glass, and invested in Sunbeam Enterprises and Sam
18 Glass Enterprises, doing business as Super Duper Food Store, Inc.,
19 with the first store in Sweetwater; and

20 WHEREAS, The grocery store chain flourished and included 21
21 stores across the state at its height, using innovative and
22 visionary marketing with service as a core value; and

23 WHEREAS, The thriving partnership ended in 1974 at the death
24 of Mr. Glass when Mr. Parker became president of the company,

1 selling it five years later to a German-based company operating as
2 Furr Foods; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Parker has enjoyed the respect and admiration of
4 people everywhere, especially in his hometown of Abilene, where he
5 and his late wife Cynthia quietly benefitted untold numbers of
6 those in need through their generous support and benefactors; and

7 WHEREAS, This godly man became the largest shareholder in the
8 parent company of the First National Bank of Abilene and was active
9 as a civic leader in all aspects of the Abilene community, including
10 his service to his alma mater Hardin-Simmons University, the
11 Hendrick Medical Foundation, the Abilene Chamber of Commerce, as
12 chairman of the Hendrick Medical Center Development Corporation,
13 and many, many other non-profit organizations; and

14 WHEREAS, He and his late wife have been devoted members since
15 1959 of the First Baptist Church of Abilene, where he has served as
16 a deacon and in many other capacities, and where she helped
17 establish the GLO Day Care Center as one of the first in Abilene;
18 she also served as a board member for Hendrick Hospice Care, the
19 Paramount Theater, and was a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels, Plus
20 of Abilene; and

21 WHEREAS, James Parker and his family have reportedly given
22 the largest gift in the history of Hardin-Simmons University to
23 establish the Cynthia Ann Parker College of Liberal Arts in honor of
24 his late wife, who lost her life to cancer; and

25 WHEREAS, Because of his recent generous gift to the Hendrick
26 Medical Center of Abilene, the James and Cynthia Parker wing of the
27 hospital's main entrance was dedicated in special ceremonies on May

1 28, 2003; and

2 WHEREAS, This good man combined his Christian faith with the
3 highest standards of business ethics to become a true servant
4 leader; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
6 Legislature hereby commend James Parker for his many significant
7 contributions to his fellow Texans and extend to him sincere best
8 wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for Mr. Parker and his children as an expression of high
11 regard from the Texas House of Representatives.