

By: Geren

H.R. No. 1869

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The people of Tarrant County are mourning the loss
2 of distinguished restaurateur and philanthropist Vance Godbey of
3 Azle, who passed away on May 28, 2003, at the age of 83; and

4 WHEREAS, Born August 11, 1919, in Springtown, Mr. Godbey
5 graduated from North Side High School in 1938; after building
6 airplanes for Consolidated Vultee, he joined the U.S. Army Air
7 Corps in 1942 and subsequently rose to the rank of sergeant; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Godbey moved to the Lakeside area in 1947 and
9 started Godbey's Grocery; forced to close down by a larger company's
10 moving into the area, he next owned and operated a popular barbecue
11 stand before having his lease canceled; demonstrating admirable
12 resilience and determination, he opened Vance Godbey's Restaurant
13 on the Jacksboro highway in 1955, providing customers with
14 delicious home-style cooking and a spectacular view of Lake Worth;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, With the later addition of a catering service, the
17 business grew to employ a staff of some 80 workers; a generous
18 employer, Mr. Godbey offered profit sharing, often paid for
19 employees' college expenses, and once sent his staff on a Hawaiian
20 vacation; when he retired in the 1990s, he turned the business over
21 to his daughters Carol and CK; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to being a successful businessman, Mr.
23 Godbey was a public-spirited citizen who contributed to the area in
24 a number of ways; a member of the first Lake Worth city council, he

1 also played an instrumental role in establishing that town's first
2 fire department and served as a volunteer firefighter himself from
3 1947 to 1959; moreover, his grocery store did double duty as the
4 original fire department; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Godbey touched countless lives with his generous
6 donations to area charities, including Loaves and Fishes, the
7 Presbyterian Night Shelter, and Restoration Church in Arlington;
8 for many years, he provided Thanksgiving dinners through the
9 Salvation Army; after several area firefighters perished while
10 combating a blaze in 1999, he opened his restaurant on Sundays to
11 raise money for their families, donating \$46,400 to the
12 Firefighters 500 Fund, and he gave freely in behalf of the New York
13 City firefighters who died in the September 11 terrorist attack;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, His numerous affiliations included the Grand Lodge
16 of Texas, Tarrant Masonic Lodge 942, the NAACP, the Republican
17 National Committee, and the Fort Worth Petroleum Club; in 1996,
18 both Fort Worth and Tarrant County held Vance Godbey Appreciation
19 days in his honor, and three years later he received the
20 Congressional Certificate of Recognition from Representative Kay
21 Granger; and

22 WHEREAS, A member of the First Baptist Church of Lakeside,
23 Mr. Godbey was a devoted family man, successful restaurateur, and
24 beloved citizen; his family, his friends, and countless fellow
25 citizens will long feel the influence he had in their lives, and his
26 memory will be preserved in the hearts of those who were fortunate
27 enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Vance Godbey
3 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
4 wife, Arvella Godbey; to his daughters, Carol Godbey, Cynthia "CK"
5 Godbey, Janice Godbey, and Sandy Martin; to his stepchildren, Jim
6 Stride, Bobby Garrett, and Sharon Glover; to his grandsons, Micah
7 Lauderdale, Zachary Knittle, and Mike Martin; to his
8 granddaughters, Leigh Anne Lauderdale and Regina McDonald; to his
9 seven step-grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; to his
10 brothers-in-law, Herman Brawley, Larry Brawley, Marvin Brawley,
11 and Thomas Brawley; and to his many other relatives and friends;
12 and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Vance
16 Godbey.