

By: Bivins

S.C.R. No. 47

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas joins the
3 citizens of Midland and West Texas in mourning the loss of William
4 H. Collyns, who died February 18, 2003, at the age of 94; and

5 WHEREAS, Bill Collyns was born November 11, 1908, in San
6 Angelo and moved from McCamey with Humble Oil & Refining Company to
7 Midland in 1935; he served as manager of the Midland Chamber of
8 Commerce from 1936 to 1946, with the exception of two years in the
9 United States Army, and he later served as the chamber's president;
10 from 1946 until he retired in 1980, he was editor of the *Midland*
11 *Reporter-Telegram*; and

12 WHEREAS, Bill Collyns cultivated the Midland spirit and both
13 witnessed and helped Midland grow from a town of 5,000 people to a
14 progressive, bustling city of 100,000 and the center of the oil
15 industry; he was such an avid booster of his community that he was
16 popularly known as the ambassador for both Midland and West Texas;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, He was instrumental in bringing a United States Army
19 Air Force base to Midland, and the city became home to the nation's
20 largest bombardier school during World War II; he also worked to
21 develop the aviation center that is now Midland International
22 Airport; and

23 WHEREAS, He continued to herald Midland's assets and
24 qualities, especially its people, and received many newspaper and

1 community service awards throughout his lifetime, from recognition
2 by the Jaycees as Outstanding Young Man of 1943 to receiving the
3 2001 West Texas Hall of Fame Award; and

4 WHEREAS, Highly respected for his accomplishments and his
5 leadership in his community he was known as "Mr. Midland," "Mr. West
6 Texas," and "Mr. Permian Basin"; he was instrumental in developing
7 the Permian Basin's transportation infrastructure, and he was
8 inducted into the West Texas Heritage Hall of Fame and the Permian
9 Basin Petroleum Museum Hall of Fame; and

10 WHEREAS, An exemplary and distinguished gentleman, he was a
11 man of great faith and a loyal member, elder emeritus, and trustee
12 for the First Presbyterian Church of Midland; he was preceded in
13 death by his wife, Alice Collyns, who died in 1997; and

14 WHEREAS, A man of integrity, strength, and generosity, Bill
15 Collyns gave unselfishly of his time to others, and his wisdom,
16 warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew
17 him; and

18 WHEREAS, Bill Collyns was a devoted husband, father, and
19 grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured
20 forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of William
23 H. Collyns: his daughter and son-in-law, Lorraine and Bill Harris;
24 and his two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and, be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for his
27 family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas

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1 Legislature, and that when the legislature adjourns this day, it do
2 so in memory of William H. Collyns.