

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 305

In Memory
of
Mike McKool

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Dallas in mourning the loss of the Honorable Mike McKool, who died February 22, 2003, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, Mike McKool was born December 30, 1918, in Mexico City and moved to Dallas with his Lebanese immigrant parents, Charles and Filomena McKool; he graduated as valedictorian of his class from Dallas (Crozier) Tech High School and earned a degree from George Washington University; and

WHEREAS, During World War II, he was stationed in Italy, flying missions as a B-24 tail gunner in the United States Army Air Corps; he was shot down over Yugoslavia, rescued by the anti-Nazi Chetniks, and walked for 38 days and 400 miles to freedom; and

WHEREAS, When he returned to Dallas, he completed his law degree at Southern Methodist University and founded a law firm in Dallas where he practiced for 50 years and specialized in condemnation cases; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKool was known throughout his career as a champion for the rights of the underrepresented; he was elected to the Texas State Senate in 1968, where he fought high insurance rates and a sales tax on groceries; he wrote the state's voter registration law, and in 1972, he broke the world's filibustering record when he spoke nonstop for 42 hours and 33 minutes in an effort to gain funds for mental health and retardation; and

WHEREAS, He served as chairman of the Dallas County Democratic Party from 1984 to 1986 and founded Democratic Men of Dallas County; he was the chairman of the Danny Thomas Saint Jude's Drive to aid children with leukemia, and he was president of the Southern Federation of Syrian Lebanese American Clubs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McKool was a member of Christ the King Catholic Church, and he was widely known for his humor, his loyalty, and his love of his family, politics, and the law; and

WHEREAS, A man of integrity, strength, and generosity, Mr. McKool gave unselfishly of his time to others, and his wisdom, warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, Mike McKool lived his life to the fullest and he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Mike McKool: his wife, Betty Raney McKool; his children, Mike McKool, Jr., Mollie McKool, Matt McKool, and Mitzi McKool Gadway; his sister, Pat Parton; and his 20 grandchildren; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mike McKool.

West

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 5, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate