

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 563

In Memory
of
Bobby Joe Hill

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of El Paso and Texans across the state in mourning the loss of Bobby Joe Hill, who died December 8, 2002, at the age of 59; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Joe Hill was the point guard for the Texas Western College basketball team that defeated the University of Kentucky team 72-65 to win the National Collegiate Athletic Association Championship on March 19, 1966; the game made history because it marked the first occasion when five black starters captured a championship title against five white players; the victory was especially significant because it occurred during the volatile era of struggles for civil rights; and

WHEREAS, The landmark game marked a major turning point in Bobby Joe Hill's life, and he became universally respected for his athleticism, and, more importantly, beloved for his generous and humble spirit and for his kindness and warmth toward everyone he encountered; and

WHEREAS, On the basketball court, however, Bobby Joe Hill's ready smile and ever cheerful nature gave way to the character of a tenacious and disciplined athlete who had no equal in playing defense; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Joe later put his athletic prowess to use playing on one of the best city leagues in El Paso for Union Furniture, and he took great delight in participating in some of the greatest Sunday pick-up games ever to take place in the city at the Bowie High School gymnasium during the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Everywhere this revered man went and regardless of the circumstances in which he found himself, he always exuded an air of deep human decency, and he had the rare ability to relate to people of all ages and to make friends out of complete strangers; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Joe's gifts and talents as a basketball player were only part of this extraordinary man's legacy; he was a highly devoted family man who was a proud father and who enjoyed a happy marriage to Tina Hill for 37 years; and

WHEREAS, A man of integrity, strength, and generosity, Bobby Joe gave unselfishly of his time to others, and his wisdom, warmth, and sense of humor will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and

S.R. No. 563

WHEREAS, Bobby Joe Hill lived his life to the fullest, 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 Bobby Joe Hill; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of 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 Bobby Joe Hill.

Shapleigh

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 7, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate