

By: Naishtat

H.C.R. No. 13

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Citizens across Central Texas have lost a legendary
2 public servant and a trusted friend with the passing of the
3 Honorable James Jarrell "Jake" Pickle of Austin on June 18, 2005, at
4 the age of 91; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout his 31-year career in the United States
6 House of Representatives, Congressman Pickle devoted his
7 considerable abilities to advancing the interests of his district
8 and to helping individual constituents in any way that he and his
9 staff possibly could; renowned for his accessibility, his
10 tremendous capacity for hard work, and his determination to use
11 government to assist ordinary people, he became a touchstone for
12 kindness, integrity, and dedication in the realm of public service;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Born the fourth of five children in the West Texas
15 town of Roscoe on October 11, 1913, James Jarrell Pickle grew up in
16 Big Spring; a youth with an affable nature, he earned his famous
17 nickname while his family was acting out a drama for entertainment;
18 the character that he played, "Jake," was a rascal--and the name
19 stayed with him for the rest of his life; and

20 WHEREAS, Relocating to Austin, he attended The University of
21 Texas, where he served as student body president; after receiving
22 his bachelor's degree in 1938, he joined the National Youth
23 Administration as an area director; he accepted a commission in the
24 U.S. Navy in 1942 and subsequently served as a gunnery officer for

1 3-1/2 years in the South Pacific; and

2 WHEREAS, Following his return to Austin in 1945, J. J. "Jake"
3 Pickle joined with a group of other veterans to launch the radio
4 station KVET, and four years later he co-founded a public relations
5 firm; in the 1950s, he became a member of the State Democratic
6 Executive Committee, which he first served as organizational
7 secretary and later, from 1957 to 1960, as chairman; during the
8 1950s and the early 1960s, he managed or actively supported the
9 campaigns of numerous political candidates--among them Lyndon
10 Johnson, Allan Shivers, Price Daniel, Sr., and John Connally; and

11 WHEREAS, Jake Pickle served on the Texas Employment
12 Commission from 1961 to 1963, when he won a special election to fill
13 the seat for the state's 10th Congressional District, left vacant
14 by the resignation of William Homer Thornberry during the 88th
15 Congress; sworn in on Christmas Eve, 1963, he went on to win
16 election to 15 more terms before declining to run again in 1994; at
17 the time of his retirement, he was the third ranking Democrat on the
18 powerful Ways and Means Committee in the House of Representatives;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Arriving in Washington, D.C. at the beginning of
21 Lyndon Johnson's administration, Jake Pickle gave his support to
22 the president's ambitious domestic program, including legislation
23 to achieve far-reaching social reform; two months into his freshman
24 term, he became one of only six southern representatives to vote in
25 favor of the 1964 Civil Rights Act--a vote that he later described
26 as the most significant of his entire congressional career; and

27 WHEREAS, Among his many accomplishments, he took special

1 pride in his leadership, as chairman of the social security
2 subcommittee, in crafting and passing a bill in 1983 to restore
3 solvency to that program; other areas of policy in which he left an
4 imprint included trade, health care, pension system and tax reform,
5 and alternative energy research; working tirelessly on behalf of
6 his district, he played a key role in transforming Austin into a
7 prominent center for high-technology research and development
8 while also securing significant federal funding for The University
9 of Texas at Austin, Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and the
10 Balcones National Wildlife Refuge; and

11 WHEREAS, For Congressman Pickle, leaving public office
12 didn't mean leaving public service; back in Austin, he assisted
13 with myriad local projects and helped to raise funds for a number of
14 area charities; whenever possible, he would try to assist former
15 constituents who still sought his aid and counsel, and he continued
16 to revel in working any gathering, joyfully meeting, greeting, and
17 inquiring after the welfare of all persons he encountered; and

18 WHEREAS, In recognition of his sterling service through the
19 years, former Representative Pickle was designated a Distinguished
20 Alumnus of The University of Texas at Austin, where his name graces
21 a chair in the Department of Government, a fellowship fund at the
22 LBJ School of Public Affairs, and a research center; also named in
23 his honor are the federal building in downtown Austin and an
24 elementary school on the city's north side, a runway at
25 Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and the conference center
26 at M. D. Anderson Research Park in nearby Smithville; and

27 WHEREAS, Jake Pickle married Ella Nora "Sugar" Critz in 1942;

1 she passed away in 1952 and in 1960 he married Beryl Bolton
2 McCarroll, with whom he enjoyed a 45-year union; and

3 WHEREAS, Through his exceptional public service, loyal
4 friendship, and generous spirit, J. J. "Jake" Pickle enriched
5 countless lives, and the legacy and memory of this good and decent
6 man will shine for years to come not only in the Lone Star State but
7 throughout a grateful nation; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,
9 1st Called Session, 2005, hereby pay special tribute to the
10 well-lived life of the Honorable James Jarrell "Jake" Pickle and
11 extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
12 Beryl Pickle; to his daughter, Peggy Pickle, and her husband,
13 Donald Cook; to his stepsons, Dick McCarroll and his wife, Missy,
14 and Graham McCarroll and his wife, Marsha; to his brother, Joe
15 Pickle; to his sister, Judith Pickle Lancaster, and her husband,
16 Jonathan; to his grandchildren, Bergan Casey, Todd Mack, and
17 Bennett, Christine, Matthew Jake, and Bradley McCarroll; to his
18 great-grandchildren, Ferrell Mack, Peyton Critz Casey, and
19 Katherine and Maggie McCarroll; and to his other relatives and many
20 friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
24 the Honorable James Jarrell "Jake" Pickle.