

By: Allen of Harris

H.R. No. 370

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A loving family and good friends celebrate the life
2 of Melvin Donald Smith of Cleburne, who passed away on July 8, 2005,
3 at the age of 78; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on August 22, 1926, in Elbert, Mr. Smith served
5 with distinction in the U.S. Army Air Corps and Air Force during
6 World War II; after the military, he attended Weatherford Junior
7 College and Texas Wesleyan College, where he earned a bachelor of
8 science degree, and later received his master of education degree
9 from Texas Christian University; and

10 WHEREAS, A strong advocate for public education, he began his
11 teaching and coaching career in Granbury in 1950, twice leading the
12 girls' basketball team to the state finals; he was a high school
13 principal in Granbury, and Jacksboro, where in 1962 he was selected
14 to be superintendent; in 1971, Mr. Smith moved to Cleburne and
15 served as superintendent of the Cleburne schools until he retired
16 in 1986; and

17 WHEREAS, After his retirement, Mr. Smith embarked on a second
18 career with DSA, a construction management firm specializing in
19 school design and construction; he also became active in the Texas
20 Association of Retired Administrators and served two terms as the
21 association's president; and

22 WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan devoted much of his time
23 and energy to his community; he was president and director of the
24 Jacksboro Lions Club and the Jacksboro and Cleburne Chambers of

1 Commerce; he was an elder of the Christian Church, charter member
2 and president of the Tuesday Forum, lay advisory committee chairman
3 of Southwestern Adventist University, and board member for the
4 Southern Association of Schools and Colleges; he was also a charter
5 member of the group that brought Hill College to Johnson County, and
6 in 1985, he was named the Outstanding Citizen of Cleburne; and

7 WHEREAS, Don Smith made countless contributions that
8 continue to resonate in the lives of his students and fellow
9 citizens, and his memory will be forever cherished by those who were
10 blessed to share in his love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
13 Melvin Donald Smith and extend sincere sympathy to the members of
14 his family: to his wife of 23 years, Wanda; to his four children,
15 Tommy Smith and his wife, Jeanne, Craig Smith and his wife, Nancy,
16 Sue Schechter and her husband, Richard, and Max Nimmo and his wife,
17 Tammy; to his nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; to
18 his two sisters, Velma Rea Pounds and her husband, R. J., and Jewel
19 Heard; and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it
20 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 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Melvin
24 Donald Smith.