

By: Woolley

H.R. No. 32

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, With the passing of Walter M. Mischer of Houston on  
2 December 18, 2005, at the age of 83, the State of Texas has lost an  
3 eminent citizen and a renowned entrepreneur; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on July 4, 1922, in Karnes County, Mr. Mischer  
5 grew up in South Texas; he studied engineering at Texas College of  
6 Arts and Industries, now Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and  
7 financed college by stringing fence on the King Ranch; and

8           WHEREAS, At the age of 19 he moved to Houston, seeking  
9 employment in the construction industry; he built naval bases in  
10 the Caribbean as a project manager with Stone & Webster during World  
11 War II, then worked as a supervisor and built refineries for Foster  
12 Wheeler Corporation before starting his own construction company in  
13 1946; and

14           WHEREAS, Mischer Investments, a major real-estate  
15 development company, figures prominently in Mr. Mischer's  
16 extraordinary list of professional accomplishments; over the  
17 years, this renowned businessman was instrumental in the creation  
18 of numerous subdivisions--and thousands of affordable homes--in  
19 the Houston area; moreover, he was a part owner of extensive  
20 property in Belize and in West Texas, where his interests included a  
21 resort development at Lajitas and Big Bend Ranch, a magnificent  
22 wilderness area that is now part of the state park system; and

23           WHEREAS, A cofounder and director of Marathon Manufacturing  
24 Company, an energy services enterprise, Mr. Mischer was also a

1 founder of Allied Bancshares, Inc., which grew to become one of the  
2 largest bank-holding companies in the state; he served as chairman  
3 of the latter corporation from its inception in 1971 until its  
4 merger with First Interstate of Los Angeles in 1987; and

5 WHEREAS, Walter Mischer married the former Mary Alford on  
6 August 15, 1943, and the couple enjoyed a rewarding union of 62  
7 years; committed to making a positive difference in the world, they  
8 created the Walter M. Mischer and Mary A. Mischer Foundation, which  
9 has rendered significant support to the Institute of Molecular  
10 Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases, a component of The  
11 University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston; other  
12 institutions to benefit from their philanthropy have been The  
13 University of Texas Medical School at Houston, The University of  
14 Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Houston, and The  
15 University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston; and

16 WHEREAS, A host of accolades attest to the high regard in  
17 which this esteemed Texan was held; among the honors bestowed on him  
18 were the Outstanding Citizen of Houston award in 1965, induction  
19 into the Texas Business Hall of Fame in 1985, and an Impact Award,  
20 conferred by the West Houston Association in 2004; and

21 WHEREAS, The son of a ranching family, Mr. Mischer retained a  
22 deep appreciation of the land and derived profound pleasure from  
23 his own ranch at Easterly, in Robertson County; and

24 WHEREAS, A towering business and civic leader, Walter Mischer  
25 left an indelible stamp on the Lone Star State; he will long be  
26 missed by countless fellow citizens and forever treasured by those  
27 who were privileged to share in his friendship and affection; now,

1 therefore, be it

2           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
3 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
4 Walter M. Mischer and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
5 family: to his wife, Mary Mischer; to his daughter, Paula Mischer;  
6 to his son and daughter-in-law, Walter M. Mischer, Jr., and Leila W.  
7 Mischer; to his grandchildren, Robert L. Corson and his wife,  
8 Olivia, Walter R. Corson and his wife, Jodie, Candace Watson,  
9 Duncan M. Watson, Walter M. Mischer III, Lawson W. Mischer, and  
10 Morgan J. Mischer; to his great-grandchildren, Nicholas A. Corson  
11 and Andrew Corson; to his sisters, Edna Kerlick and Marilyn Russell  
12 and her husband, Tom; to his sister-in-law, Louise Alford; and to  
13 his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

14           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House  
16 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Walter  
17 M. Mischer.