

By: Chisum

H.R. No. 157

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Hansford County and the State of Texas  
2 lost an esteemed Texan with the death of Johnnie C. Lee of Spearman  
3 on December 18, 2004, at the age of 80, and it is indeed fitting to  
4 remember this community-minded gentleman and his many  
5 contributions to the welfare of his fellow citizens; and

6           WHEREAS, Born in Stratford on November 20, 1924, Mr. Lee was  
7 the son of Dick and Ruth Gladys Lee; he was reared and educated in  
8 Gruver and joined the United States Marine Corps at the age of 17,  
9 receiving two Purple Hearts during World War II as a member of the  
10 Fourth Marine Division before being honorably discharged with the  
11 rank of corporal; and

12           WHEREAS, On his return to Gruver, he was appointed veterans  
13 service officer for Hansford County, the first in a series of  
14 leadership roles he would take on over the course of his life;  
15 during that time, he also met and married Jo Ann Hoskins, with whom  
16 he shared an enduring union that was blessed with three children;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, At the age of 23, he became the youngest county judge  
19 in the state after he was appointed by the commissioners court to  
20 the office of Hansford County judge; after winning reelection, he  
21 went on to hold the office for the next three decades, unopposed,  
22 faithfully fulfilling his duties as county judge and ex-officio  
23 county superintendent of several rural schools; and

24           WHEREAS, Judge Lee's myriad contributions to the residents of

1 Hansford County included his pivotal role in establishing a county  
2 hospital district and Hansford Hospital; he was also instrumental  
3 in the creation of the Hansford County Library and the  
4 establishment of the Stationmaster's House Museum in Spearman,  
5 which he oversaw in his capacity as the inaugural chair of the  
6 Hansford Historical Society; and

7 WHEREAS, A lifelong farmer and rancher, he was active with  
8 the Gruver and Spearman Chambers of Commerce, the Lions Club, the  
9 Rotary Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion;  
10 he also supported the Spearman Little League and Boy Scouts of  
11 America Troop No. 51 and was an honorary member of the Hansford  
12 County FFA; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1978, Judge Lee retired from office to become the  
14 first general manager of the Palo Duro River Authority; the  
15 highlight of his tenure in that role was the creation of the Palo  
16 Duro Dam, which was completed in 1990 and has enabled the lake to  
17 become a popular recreational attraction for the region and a vital  
18 water resource; he retired from the PDRA in 1993; and

19 WHEREAS, A man of great integrity and dedication, Johnnie C.  
20 Lee enjoyed the admiration and respect of countless people  
21 throughout his life, and although he is deeply missed by those who  
22 knew him, his spirit lives on in the legacy of positive  
23 contributions he made to his fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
25 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the  
26 memory of the Honorable Johnnie C. Lee and extend deepest sympathy  
27 to the members of his family: to his wife of 58 years, Dana Jo Ann

1 Hoskins Lee; to his children, Jock Douglas, Jolinda, and Johnette;  
2 to his eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and to  
3 the many other relatives and friends of this fine man; and, be it  
4 further

5         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
7 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the  
8 Honorable Johnnie C. Lee.