

By: Hartnett

H.C.R. No. 125

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The certain knowledge of a life well lived may
2 temper the sorrow felt at the passing of the Honorable Frederick
3 Joseph Agnich of Dallas on October 28, 2004, at the age of 91; and

4 WHEREAS, A successful business executive and prominent civic
5 leader, Mr. Agnich was also a longtime Republican activist and a
6 former nine-term member of the Texas Legislature; and

7 WHEREAS, Fred Agnich was born in Eveleth, Minnesota, on July
8 19, 1913; after earning a degree in geology from the University of
9 Minnesota in 1937, he moved to Dallas and joined a petroleum
10 prospecting firm, Geophysical Service, Inc. (GSI); he served as
11 president of GSI from 1955 to 1959 and as an officer and director of
12 its parent company, Texas Instruments, Inc., from 1953 to 1961; and

13 WHEREAS, Following his departure from TI, Mr. Agnich turned
14 his attention to independent oil and gas ventures and ranching; and

15 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan played a key role in building the
16 Republican Party in Dallas County; in addition to his longtime
17 fund-raising, which he first undertook in 1952, he served as county
18 chairman from 1967 to 1969, as a member of the state executive
19 committee from 1969 to 1972, as a Texas committeeman for the
20 Republican National Committee (RNC) from 1972 to 1976, and as vice
21 chairman of the RNC from 1974 to 1976; he also served as Dallas
22 County chairman for Barry Goldwater and John Connally in their
23 presidential bids; and

24 WHEREAS, Elected to nine consecutive terms in the Texas House

1 of Representatives, Mr. Agnich displayed his characteristic
2 boldness during his first term, when he joined a reform-minded
3 coalition of Republicans and Democrats known as the Dirty Thirty;
4 later, as chair of the Environmental Affairs Committee, he authored
5 the Wildlife Conservation Act of 1983, which entrusted the fish and
6 wildlife of the state to the care of biologists and professional
7 managers; he also served on the appropriations and energy
8 committees; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Agnich gave generously of his time and talents
10 to the Greenhill School, holding the posts of director and chairman
11 of the board of governors, and was instrumental in establishing the
12 school at its present site; he also served as a trustee for the
13 Southwest Center for Advanced Studies, now The University of Texas
14 at Dallas, and as a director for the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts,
15 Dallas Civic Opera, Dallas Historical Society, and Dallas Petroleum
16 Club; and

17 WHEREAS, Bearing the name of this esteemed gentleman are a
18 ship in the GSI fleet, a scholarship administered by the Texas
19 Association of Professional Geoscientists, and the science
20 building at Greenhill School; and

21 WHEREAS, Fred Agnich was married to Ruth Welton Agnich, who
22 died in 1975, and to Brooksie Penland Agnich, who survives him; and

23 WHEREAS, Held in high regard by individuals across the
24 political spectrum, Mr. Agnich embraced life and adventure and
25 brought to all his pursuits a hearty zestfulness and unshakeable
26 integrity; he is sorely missed and will be forever treasured by
27 those who were privileged to be a part of his world; now, therefore,

1 be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby pay special tribute to the life of Frederick Joseph Agnich
4 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his
5 wife, Brooksie Penland Agnich; to his sons and their spouses,
6 William Agnich, Richard and Tory Agnich, and James and Betsy
7 Agnich; to his stepchildren and their spouses, Annette and Hal
8 Steinman, Pebble and Zach Fry, Julia and Jerry Klein, Raymond and
9 Toby Willie, and Brook Willie; to his grandchildren, Robert,
10 Jonathan, Barbara, and Sarah Agnich, Michael Agnich and his wife,
11 Kelli, Bruce Agnich and his wife, Traci, Travis Vaden, Brandon and
12 Heather Gonzales, and Brooklyn and Raylee Willie; to his
13 great-grandchildren, Samantha and Dylan Agnich; to his sister,
14 Dorothea Grigg; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be
15 it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
19 former State Representative Frederick Joseph Agnich.