

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 126

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of West Texas lost a widely esteemed  
2 lawman with the passing of Clayton McKinney of Midland on August 20,  
3 2004, at the age of 64; and

4           WHEREAS, A native of the Big Bend area, Mr. McKinney was born  
5 in Marathon on June 4, 1940; early in his career he worked as a pilot  
6 and game warden, stationed in Van Horn with the Texas Parks and  
7 Wildlife Department; while associated with that agency, he played a  
8 key role in the restoration of pronghorn antelope to the Big Bend  
9 region; and

10           WHEREAS, After leaving Texas Parks and Wildlife, Mr. McKinney  
11 embarked on a stellar 16-year career with the Texas Rangers; based  
12 in Sierra Blanca from 1969 to 1977 and in Alpine from 1977 to 1985,  
13 he established effective working relationships with law  
14 enforcement officers in Mexico; as a result, he was able to achieve  
15 a significant reduction in drug traffic and to recover a  
16 substantial amount of stolen property that had been taken across  
17 the border; and

18           WHEREAS, Because of the regard in which Mr. McKinney was held  
19 and his familiarity with the region, both James A. Michener and  
20 Larry McMurtry asked that he guide them through the Big Bend country  
21 in preparation for their respective books, *Texas* and *Lonesome Dove*;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, In recognition of his outstanding work with the  
24 Texas Rangers, Mr. McKinney was named the 1978 Big Bend Law

1 Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Big Bend Law Enforcement  
2 Officers Association, and he was also inducted into the Texas  
3 Ranger Hall of Fame; and

4 WHEREAS, Clayton McKinney retired from the Texas Rangers in  
5 1985 and joined the Midland County Sheriff's Office as a lieutenant  
6 in the Criminal Investigation Division; over the ensuing months, he  
7 supervised the clearing of more than 200 burglary cases, an  
8 accomplishment that led to a marked reduction in illicit narcotics  
9 activity; in 1987 he instituted a five-year-long series of reverse  
10 sting operations, which resulted in the arrest of approximately 40  
11 individuals thought to be major drug offenders and in the seizure of  
12 currency and property worth approximately \$10 million; and

13 WHEREAS, For his successes in combating the illegal drug  
14 trade, he was named the 1986 Greg McFarlin-Max Banks Law  
15 Enforcement Officer of the Year by the Sheriffs' Association of  
16 Texas and, in 1987, designated the 200 Club Law Enforcement Officer  
17 of the Year by the 200 Club of Midland; and

18 WHEREAS, Promoted to chief deputy in 1996, Mr. McKinney was  
19 instrumental in resolving a nationally publicized hostage  
20 situation in Fort Davis in 1997; in the wake of that incident, the  
21 Midland County Sheriff's Office established S.T.A.R., Sheriffs of  
22 Texas Agreed Response, to better prepare sheriffs' offices around  
23 the state to respond to natural or man-made disasters; as head of  
24 the program, Mr. McKinney directed the coordinated training of  
25 numerous sheriff's deputies and the distribution of surplus  
26 military equipment to many sheriffs' departments; and

27 WHEREAS, After more than three decades in the law enforcement

1 profession, Mr. McKinney retired from the Midland County Sheriff's  
2 Office in 2002 and joined NCS Pearson, Inc.; in his new capacity, he  
3 helped to evaluate airport security across the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, During those years he also worked on a project to  
5 build a new, county-owned prison in Hudspeth County; that facility,  
6 the West Texas Detention Center--Ranger Clayton McKinney Unit, was  
7 dedicated on August 14, 2004; Mr. McKinney was further honored by  
8 Midland College, which has established a law enforcement  
9 scholarship in his name; and

10 WHEREAS, This acclaimed law officer was the husband of Jean  
11 McKinney and the father of three sons, all of whom followed him into  
12 the field of law enforcement; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout his long and distinguished career,  
14 Clayton McKinney exemplified the highest ideals of his profession  
15 and contributed immeasurably to the safety and well-being of  
16 countless fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby pay special tribute to the memory of Clayton McKinney and  
19 extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,  
20 Jean McKinney; to his sons and their spouses, Clay McKinney and his  
21 wife, Brenda, Troy McKinney and his wife, Kim, and Rory McKinney and  
22 his wife, Katrina; to his grandchildren, Clay Ryon, Jake, Sarah,  
23 Brooke, Clayton, Hannah, Ember, Ethan, and Evan; to his brother,  
24 Billy Pat McKinney; to his sister, Midge Gooch; and to his other  
25 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House

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1 of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory  
2 of Clayton McKinney.