

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 176

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, A full and generous life came to a close with the  
2 death of noted religious and civic leader Dr. Raymond Armstrong of  
3 Paris on October 29, 2003, at the age of 80; and

4           WHEREAS, Dr. Armstrong arrived in Paris in 1972 with his  
5 beloved wife, Glenelle, to assume the responsibilities of minister  
6 of First Christian Church; under his able leadership, the  
7 congregation grew, as did its involvement in community endeavors;  
8 Dr. Armstrong implemented a capital campaign that resulted in new  
9 and expanded facilities; even after his retirement, this esteemed  
10 Texan remained dedicated to the membership, and was serving in his  
11 15th year as weekend pastor at the time of his death; and

12           WHEREAS, In addition to his commitment to his church, Dr.  
13 Armstrong was highly involved in a host of civic organizations; a  
14 former president of the Paris Ministerial Alliance, Paris Rotary  
15 Club, and Lamar County Chamber of Commerce, he served as a  
16 commissioner of the Paris Housing Authority, as well as a board  
17 member for the Paris Independent School District, Salvation Army,  
18 Lamar County Human Resource Council, and Lamar County American  
19 Heart Association, to name but a few; and

20           WHEREAS, After 14 years at First Christian Church, Dr.  
21 Armstrong served as director of pastoral care and development for  
22 McCuistion Regional Medical Center, where he conducted three  
23 capital campaigns and helped establish the McCuistion Endowment; a  
24 former chair of the Pastoral Care Committee at St. Joseph's

1 Hospital, he initiated a volunteer chaplain program at Paris Junior  
2 College that was adopted by hospitals throughout the region; in  
3 2002, he retired from foundation duties at Christus St. Joseph's  
4 Health System, where he had been instrumental in the creation of the  
5 Paris Regional Health Care Endowment; and

6 WHEREAS, The Christus St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation named  
7 a community service award in Dr. Armstrong's honor, and in 2002 he  
8 and his wife were recognized as "I Love Paris" honorees by the Paris  
9 Education Foundation; the following year, he was invited to lead  
10 the opening prayer of the 78th Legislative Session of the Texas  
11 Senate, a true testament to his status as a respected spiritual  
12 leader; and

13 WHEREAS, Although he is deeply missed, the legacy of  
14 religious leadership and civic contributions of Raymond Armstrong  
15 will long resonate in the lives of the people of Paris and Lamar  
16 County; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Raymond Armstrong and extend  
19 sincere sympathy to the members of his family; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House  
22 of Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory  
23 of Dr. Raymond Armstrong.