

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 268

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of former Williamson County Judge Calvin
2 Luther Chance, Sr., on November 6, 2004, at the age of 96, brought
3 to a close an exceptional life that touched countless individuals;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born on a small Texas farm, Judge Chance had deep
6 Texas roots; his great-grandfather, Captain Joseph Bell Chance,
7 came to Texas from Tennessee in 1831 and settled at
8 Washington-on-the-Brazos as part of Stephen F. Austin's Second
9 Colony; both his great-grandfather and his grandfather fought for
10 an independent Texas, the former against General Santa Anna at the
11 Battle of Bexar and the Battle of San Jacinto, and the latter as a
12 soldier in the Second Texas Infantry; and

13 WHEREAS, After graduating from Liberty Hill High School,
14 Luther Chance attended The University of Texas for two years before
15 financial concerns made it necessary for him to discontinue his
16 studies; he returned to Liberty Hill where he met Jayne Beatrice
17 McFarland, who became his wife; they remained inseparable for 74
18 years until her death in 2004; and

19 WHEREAS, With jobs scarce, Judge Chance managed to find work
20 with the newly formed Texas Department of Public Safety as a
21 motorcycle patrolman in Hillsboro; it was during his early years
22 with the DPS that he met Judge James Alexander, chief justice of the
23 Court of Civil Appeals and the man who would serve as his mentor;
24 Judge Alexander provided the young law enforcement officer with

1 access to his law library, which ultimately enabled him to take and
2 pass the 16-part State Bar of Texas examination and receive his
3 certification to practice law; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1941, Judge Chance left the DPS to serve in the
5 U.S. Coast Guard; after completing his military service, he
6 returned to the Lone Star State and began a successful private
7 practice as a tax attorney; years later, he was elected county judge
8 of Williamson County, serving three terms and initiating multiple
9 improvements within the county, including the incorporation of the
10 city of Cedar Park, the development and installation of the first
11 countywide 9-1-1 service, and the creation of the first county
12 ambulance service to Cedar Park; he also oversaw the revitalization
13 of the Liberty Hill Cemetery and wrote the constitution and bylaws
14 of the Liberty Hill Cemetery Association; and

15 WHEREAS, A man of wide-ranging interests, Judge Chance was an
16 avid gardener and, today, thousands of trees, bushes, and
17 shrubberies that he began dot yards and parks throughout the Cedar
18 Park area; he also read music and played the violin, baked the
19 world's best cornbread, and was a feared adversary at the domino
20 table; and

21 WHEREAS, Judge Luther Chance lived a full and happy life,
22 filled with many memorable events; he was an inspiration to family
23 and friends, and his legacy of success and achievement will long
24 live in their hearts; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Calvin Luther Chance,
27 Sr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to

1 his daughter, Alma Mangelsdorf; to his son, Joseph Edgar Chance; to
2 his sister, Mary Ruth Strandtmann; to his brother, Truett Chance;
3 and to the many other relatives and friends of this esteemed
4 gentleman; and, be it 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 Calvin
8 Luther Chance, Sr.