

By: Homer

H.R. No. 1645

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times, loving  
2 moments, and meaningful accomplishments may comfort the family and  
3 friends of Paris native and longtime educator Jack C. Coker, who  
4 passed away on April 27, 2005, at the age of 80; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on October 20, 1924, in Paris, Mr. Coker  
6 graduated from Paris High School and enlisted in the United States  
7 Marine Corps in 1942; he served with distinction as a corporal  
8 stationed in the South Pacific during World War II and was  
9 discharged in January 1946; on April 7, 1946, he married the love of  
10 his life, Bonnie Ruth Majors; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Coker attended Paris Junior College, where he  
12 played football for the Dragons; he ultimately earned both  
13 bachelor's and master's degrees from East Texas State University  
14 and joined the Paris school system in 1948, first as a coach and a  
15 teacher, then principal, and, in 1979, as the Paris ISD's assistant  
16 superintendent of business and finance, the position from which he  
17 retired in 1983; during his career, he served as principal of J. G.  
18 Wooten Elementary School, opened the new Travis Junior High School  
19 as principal in 1963, and served as principal at the new Paris High  
20 School; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to his professional achievements, Mr.  
22 Coker played a significant role in his community as a longtime  
23 member of the Paris Optimist Club and life member of Optimist Clubs  
24 International; he was president of the Boys' Club board of

1 directors and is recognized on the Boys' Club Wall of Honor; he also  
2 gave his time and energy to the United Way, the Paris Chamber of  
3 Commerce, the Paris Education Foundation, the American Heart  
4 Association, which he served as treasurer, and the Paris Junior  
5 College Ex-Students' Association, of which he was president; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Coker received numerous recognitions for his  
7 professional and civic contributions; in 2001, he shared a most  
8 prestigious accolade with his wife, Bonnie, when the Paris  
9 Education Foundation honored the couple with its Lifetime  
10 Achievement Award and endowed scholarships in their names; and

11 WHEREAS, A congregant of Lamar Avenue Church of Christ, where  
12 he was a member of the same couples Sunday school class for 53  
13 years, Jake Coker was a devoted husband, beloved father, and  
14 cherished friend; he positively influenced the lives of countless  
15 children as an educator, and his memory will live on in the hearts  
16 of all who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Jack C. "Jake" Coker  
19 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
20 wife, Bonnie; to his daughters, Vicki Coker Banister and Lucy Coker  
21 McDonald Crumb and her husband, Chris; to his grandchildren,  
22 Michael and Jason McDonald, Moriah Crumb, and Shandi, Phillip, and  
23 Jack Coker Banister; to his great-grandchildren, Trevor Banister  
24 and Samara Jones; to his brother, Carl Mac Coker; to his  
25 sisters-in-law, Dorothy Coker, Annette Cutshall, and Lou Moreland;  
26 and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jack C.  
3 "Jake" Coker.