

By: Ritter

H.R. No. 1814

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life came to an end with the
2 passing of Evan H. Wathen of Beaumont on February 8, 2005, at the
3 age of 83; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Athens on January 7, 1922, Slats Wathen
5 served his country in both World War II, when he served with U.S.
6 Army General George Patton as a tank commander during the Battle of
7 the Bulge, and in the Korean War; after earning a degree in
8 landscape horticulture from Texas A&M University and a degree in
9 accounting from Lamar University, he cofounded the Beaumont CPA
10 firm of Wathen, DeShong, and Juncker and worked for many years; and

11 WHEREAS, After retiring, Mr. Wathen participated in the
12 Golden Triangle Emmaus Community, a Christian renewal movement, and
13 the Kairos Prison Ministry; he also dedicated four days a week for
14 15 years to reading to inner-city elementary school students and
15 received the Jefferson Award for his outstanding volunteer work;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, One of this tall Texan's greatest joys was gardening
18 and, in particular, growing roses; a founder of the Golden Triangle
19 Rose Society, he received the first Guy Blake Hedrick Award, a
20 national honor for exhibiting excellence, as well as numerous other
21 awards, including the Bronze Honor Medal, the Silver Honor Medal,
22 the Outstanding Judge Award, the District's Outstanding Consulting
23 Rosarian Award, and the most prestigious of all, the American Rose
24 Society National Gold Honor Medal, which he won in 2001; a caring

1 mentor who freely offered advice and assistance to other rose
2 enthusiasts, he wrote numerous rose culture articles for national,
3 district, and local publications and lectured extensively on the
4 subject throughout the South; and

5 WHEREAS, Although Slats Wathen had attained a somewhat
6 legendary status in the community, he was always quiet and
7 unassuming about his accomplishments and, despite health
8 challenges, retained an optimistic outlook and an infectious sense
9 of humor; a man who inspired love, affection, and respect
10 everywhere he went, he is truly missed; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Evan H. Wathen and
13 extend sincere sympathy to his family: to his wife, Lucille, to his
14 children, Lunette King, Carolyn Patterson and her husband, Jeff,
15 Ellen Jones and her husband, Charles, Grace Wathen, Peggy Knapp and
16 her husband, Leland, Ray Wathen and his wife, Teri, Cody Wathen and
17 his wife, Nanci, and Jay Scott Wathen and his wife, Debbie; to his
18 18 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; to his brother,
19 Thurman "Shug" Wathen and his wife, Julie; to his sisters, Martha
20 Smith and her husband, Loyd, and Mary Ruth White; to his
21 sister-in-law, Nita Carol Wathen; to his brother-in-law, Henry
22 Floyd and his wife, Patricia; and to his other relatives and many
23 friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Slats
27 Wathen.