

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 348

In Memory  
of  
Paul Vernon Calhoun

**WHEREAS**, Memories of a life filled with joyful times, loving moments, and meaningful accomplishments comfort the family and friends of Paul Vernon Calhoun of Palestine, who died on January 9, 2005, at the age of 86; and

**WHEREAS**, Born on July 29, 1918, Mr. Calhoun was the youngest of nine children; the trials of living through the Great Depression, coupled with the death of his father when he was 11 years old, instilled in him a strong work ethic, an unequalled drive for success, and a sense of conservatism that stayed with him his entire life and greatly aided him in becoming a preeminent businessman; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Calhoun's keen business acumen was apparent at an early age, when he sold hamburgers that he made from scraps from his brother's meat market to passersby; in 1936, he moved to Palestine to work in his brother George's market, and soon, with only \$25 and the encouragement of his beloved wife, the late Joan "Sue" Balzar, he opened his own meat market and grocery store on the courthouse square in Palestine; and

**WHEREAS**, The venture thrived, and by 1942, Mr. Calhoun had built his first packing plant; 14 years later, the plant was expanded and converted into a highly specialized boneless beef operation, The Vernon Calhoun Packing Company, which eventually earned the distinction of being one of the largest of its kind in the United States, shipping goods the world over and greatly benefiting the economy of East Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Calhoun wielded his success in a benevolent manner, generously sharing his money and time; not only did he create thousands of jobs for the residents of his area, he made a land grant to Henderson County Junior College that brought a branch of the school to Anderson County and funded countless scholarships for young Texans seeking higher education; moreover, he and his wife donated to a host of charities and helped finance a new building for the First Presbyterian Church of Palestine; and

**WHEREAS**, Philanthropist, entrepreneur, outdoors enthusiast, and beloved friend, Paul Vernon Calhoun is greatly missed, but his memory lives on in the hearts of those whose lives he so richly blessed; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby pay special tribute to the life of Paul Vernon Calhoun and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: his son, Mike Calhoun, and his wife, Minna; his grandchildren, Paul Calhoun, Lori Rhodes and her husband,

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Mike, and Tom Calhoun and his wife, Tracy; his great-grandchildren, Katelyn Calhoun and Katy, Nick, and Jon Rhodes; and to the other relatives and many friends of this distinguished man; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Paul Vernon Calhoun.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 9, 2005, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate