

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 509

In Memory
of
Jerry Hall

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Austin in mourning the loss of Jerry Hall, who died March 6, 2005, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hall was a veteran journalist who considered journalism his true calling; he also had a distinguished political consulting career and, over the years, he worked for United States Representative George Mahon, Governor Preston Smith, Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes, and Senator John Montford; and

WHEREAS, He was born August 12, 1926, in Stanton; he graduated from high school in 1943 and attended John Tarleton State College in Stephenville until he volunteered for duty with the Army Air Corps; he was about to go overseas when World War II ended; and

WHEREAS, He enrolled in the school of journalism at Texas Tech University in 1947; he became the editor of the student newspaper, *The Toreador*, where he met Mary Frances Vestal, and they married on August 31, 1950; while attending college, he worked part-time at the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*; and

WHEREAS, After graduation, he worked as a copy editor at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*; he left this position to join the staff of United States Congressman George Mahon in Washington, D.C., but later returned to journalism at the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* as a political writer and public affairs reporter; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, he joined the Austin Capitol bureau of Fentress Papers and served as bureau chief; he was hired by Governor Preston Smith as press secretary and, after a brief stint in public relations, served as the director for the constitutional revision commission and the constitutional convention; he then became a political consultant, working on more than 60 political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Hall was elected state president of Sigma Delta Chi, the Society of Professional Journalists, in 1960; he won many awards, including a special citation from the Headliners Club in Austin, during his long and distinguished journalistic career and covered many memorable tragedies and events; his wit, his warmth, and his valued counsel will be missed by all who knew him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the

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bereaved family of Jerry Hall: his wife, Mary; his daughter, Julie; his son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Sue; and his granddaughter, Sarah; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jerry Hall.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 31, 2005, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate