

By: Hughes

H.C.R. No. 50

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The noteworthy career of an accomplished prosecutor
2 came to a close with the December 2006 retirement of district
3 attorney Mark Taylor, who served the citizens of Wood County with
4 considerable skill and dedication for more than a quarter-century;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor proved himself a lawyer of rare talent
7 and insight during his time in office, but as a young man, he
8 initially set his sights on a much different profession; a recruit
9 in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps while an undergraduate at
10 Texas Tech University, he had dedicated himself to becoming a pilot
11 in the U.S. Air Force; a last-minute change in orders delayed his
12 military service, however, allowing Mr. Taylor the opportunity to
13 attend law school at Southern Methodist University; and

14 WHEREAS, After graduating from SMU in 1966, he fulfilled his
15 military commitment by completing a four-year tour of duty in the
16 Air Force; following his discharge in 1970, he returned to
17 northeastern Texas and became an attorney in private practice in
18 Winnsboro; he also entered public service by becoming a member of
19 the school board and by serving as the town's mayor and chamber of
20 commerce president; and

21 WHEREAS, Mark Taylor first took his place in the district
22 attorney's office after winning the approval of Wood County voters
23 in a 1978 election; so began his 28-year tenure as the county's
24 prosecuting attorney, and Mr. Taylor quickly earned a reputation

1 for professionalism and careful preparation of his many criminal
2 cases; his commitment was evident in the long hours he spent in his
3 office at the Quitman courthouse, where he was often the first to
4 arrive each morning and the one to lock up at the end of the day; his
5 courtroom success helped to make the county a safer and more just
6 place to live, and voters showed their support for Mr. Taylor by
7 repeatedly reelecting him as district attorney; and

8 WHEREAS, Mark Taylor also won the admiration of his legal
9 colleagues who placed him in leadership positions in a number of
10 professional organizations, and he received a prestigious honor
11 from the State Bar of Texas in 2006, when he was named prosecutor of
12 the year; and

13 WHEREAS, Throughout his time in office, he was guided by his
14 spiritual faith and supported by his wife, Pam, whom he met during
15 his studies at Texas Tech; the two were married in 1963 and have
16 raised four children; Mr. Taylor looks forward to spending more
17 time with all of his family members during his retirement, as well
18 as traveling, tending the land he and Pam own near Winnsboro, and
19 occasionally taking part in legal work; and

20 WHEREAS, With his skill in directing the district attorney's
21 office, Mark Taylor established an admirable record of professional
22 achievement, and he may take justifiable pride in the excellent
23 service he provided to the residents of Wood County; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
26 hereby commend Mark Taylor for his distinguished career as the Wood
27 County district attorney and extend to him best wishes for a

1 productive and satisfying retirement; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Mr. Taylor as an expression of high regard from the
4 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.