

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 178

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Reuben Senterfitt, who has rendered
2 distinguished service to the State of Texas as a legislator and as
3 speaker of the house of representatives, is marking a notable
4 milestone on June 18, 2007, with the celebration of his 90th
5 birthday; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in San Saba County, Mr. Senterfitt attended San
7 Saba High School, where he participated in debate and graduated as
8 valedictorian in 1935; he subsequently excelled in his studies at
9 The University of Texas School of Law, achieving appointment as
10 editor of the *Texas Law Review*; and

11 WHEREAS, Elected to the Texas Legislature at the age of 23,
12 Mr. Senterfitt served continuously for seven terms, from 1941 to
13 1955; during that time he also served his country in the United
14 States Navy, seeing duty in the South Pacific and rising from the
15 rank of ensign to lieutenant junior grade; in 1945, he traveled
16 halfway around the world to be present at the opening of the 49th
17 Regular Session; and

18 WHEREAS, During his freshman term in the house, Mr.
19 Senterfitt coauthored legislation that led to the establishment of
20 M. D. Anderson Hospital, and in 1949, he sponsored legislation
21 creating the state's veterans land program; he also advocated for
22 passage of the Gilmer-Aikin bills, which reformed the Texas school
23 system, for the adoption of the pay-as-you-go constitutional
24 provision, and for the creation of the Texas Legislative Council

1 and the Legislative Budget Board; his committee assignments
2 included the vice chairmanship of the state affairs committee and
3 chairmanship of the congressional and legislative districts and the
4 military and veterans affairs committees; and

5 WHEREAS, While speaker of the house from 1951 to 1955, Mr.
6 Senterfitt was instrumental in moving the state to the use of a
7 unified budget, a reform that significantly improved the
8 appropriation process; he also facilitated passage of legislation
9 authorizing construction of the Dallas-Fort Worth turnpike; and

10 WHEREAS, After leaving the legislature, Mr. Senterfitt
11 served as attorney for the City of San Saba and for San Saba County;
12 his outstanding legal career ultimately spanned more than five
13 decades before he retired to give more time to his ranching
14 interests, his public service activities, and his beloved family;
15 he and his wife, Pat, have been blessed with a large and lively
16 circle of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan is a life fellow of the Texas Bar
18 Foundation and a former president of the San Saba Chamber of
19 Commerce and San Saba Rotary International; in recent years, the
20 Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin has
21 interviewed Mr. Senterfitt extensively as part of a project to
22 document the key role played by Texas speakers from 1951 to the
23 present time; and

24 WHEREAS, For more than six decades, Reuben Senterfitt has
25 served his fellow Texans with the utmost integrity, ability, and
26 dedication, and he is indeed deserving of special tribute in
27 recognition of his immeasurable contributions to the Lone Star

1 State; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby congratulate the Honorable Reuben Senterfitt on the joyous
4 occasion of his 90th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes
5 for continued happiness; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for Mr. Senterfitt as an expression of high regard by the
8 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.