

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a distinguished public  
2 servant with the passing of the Honorable William M. Steger, U.S.  
3 District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, on June 4, 2006,  
4 at the age of 85; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on August 22, 1920, William Steger  
6 graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1938 and attended  
7 Baylor University from 1938 to 1941; he volunteered for the United  
8 States Army Air Corps after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and was  
9 commissioned a second lieutenant and issued his pilot's wings in  
10 November 1942; and

11           WHEREAS, The young officer's service in the military included  
12 56 combat missions in the Tunisian, Sicilian, and Italian  
13 campaigns, and his heroism earned him the Air Medal and four Oak  
14 Leaf Clusters as well as a promotion to the rank of captain; on his  
15 return to the United States, he headed up testing of the first  
16 military jet aircraft until he was honorably discharged in 1947;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, In 1948, William Steger married Ann Hollandsworth  
19 and entered Southern Methodist University Law School; after  
20 receiving his degree in 1950, he started a private practice in  
21 Longview and became actively involved in the Republican Party; and

22           WHEREAS, He served as a delegate to the 1952 Republican  
23 National Convention, and the following year he was appointed by  
24 President Eisenhower as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District

1 of Texas; that appointment brought Judge Steger and his wife to  
2 Tyler, where he later joined the law firm of Wilson, Miller, Spivey,  
3 and Steger, practicing with that firm until 1970; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1960, the Republican Party of Texas nominated  
5 Judge Steger as its candidate for governor and, while unsuccessful  
6 in his bid for the governorship, his ability to draw votes enabled  
7 the party to hold its first presidential primary in Texas in 1964;  
8 he was also chosen by his party to run for congress in 1962; and

9 WHEREAS, Judge Steger's affiliation with the Republican  
10 Party continued for the rest of his life and included such  
11 significant posts as Republican presidential elector, member of the  
12 State Republican Executive Committee, subcommittee chair of the  
13 Texas Republican Task Force on Crime and Law Enforcement, delegate  
14 to the 1968 Republican National Convention, chair of the rules  
15 committee at the Texas Republican Party Convention, and,  
16 ultimately, chair of the Republican Party of Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, After stepping down from the latter post following  
18 the 1970 elections, Judge Steger was appointed U.S. District Judge  
19 for the Eastern District of Texas by President Richard Nixon in  
20 December of that year, and he served his fellow citizens with great  
21 distinction in that capacity for the remainder of his life,  
22 presiding over more than 5,000 cases; and

23 WHEREAS, Recognized as a man of high moral character and  
24 integrity, Judge Steger was a charter member of Green Acres Baptist  
25 Church and sang with the church choir for more than 40 years; his  
26 notable career in jurisprudence and politics earned him recognition  
27 in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the Southwest*, and *Who's Who in*

1 *Law in America*; a 32nd degree Mason as well, he enjoyed membership  
2 in the Shriners and was an avid outdoorsman and fisherman  
3 throughout his life; he was also a devoted father to his son,  
4 Merritt Reed Steger, who preceded him in death; and

5 WHEREAS, Though it is impossible to gauge the full effect of a  
6 man's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark on the  
7 world as they move through it, and William Steger's contributions  
8 to his community, state, and nation will continue to resonate for  
9 many years to come; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
11 hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable William M. Steger  
12 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
13 wife, Ann Hollandsworth Steger; to his nieces and nephews, Barbara  
14 Schoolcraft, Sally Forte, Ann Nelson Grant, Scot McComas, Kelly  
15 Edens, and Andrew McComas; and to his other relatives and friends;  
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
20 Judge William M. Steger.

Hughes  
Berman  
Flynn  
Merritt  
Christian

Craddick	Gattis	Miles
Allen	Geren	Miller
Alonzo	Giddings	Moreno
Anchia	Gonzales	Morrison
Anderson	Gonzalez Toureilles	Mowery
Aycock	Goolsby	Murphy
Bailey	Guillen	Naishtat
Berman	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	O'Day
Bolton	Hancock	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hardcastle	Olivo
Branch	Harless	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Heflin	Parker
Callegari	Hernandez	Patrick
Castro	Herrero	Paxton
Chavez	Hilderbran	Pena
Chisum	Hill	Phillips
Christian	Hochberg	Pickett
Cohen	Hodge	Pierson
Coleman	Homer	Pitts
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Puente
Cook of Colorado	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Corte	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Crabb	Hughes	Riddle
Creighton	Isett	Ritter
Crownover	Jackson	Rodriguez
Darby	Jones	Rose
Davis of Harris	Keffer	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Parker	Smith of Harris
Delisi	King of Taylor	Smithee
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Solomons
Driver	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dukes	Krusee	Straus
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Latham	Talton
Eiland	Laubenberg	Taylor
Eissler	Leibowitz	Thompson
Elkins	Lucio III	Truitt
England	Macias	Turner
Escobar	Madden	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Mallory Caraway	Vaught
Farias	Martinez	Veasey
Farrar	Martinez Fischer	Villarreal
Flores	McCall	Vo
Flynn	McClendon	West
Frost	McReynolds	Woolley
Gallego	Menendez	Zedler
Garcia	Merritt	Zerwas

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 234 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 14, 2007.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 234 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on May 22, 2007.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor