

By: Callegari

H.R. No. 15

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Houston lost a visionary business
2 and civic leader with the passing of Walter Max Mischer on December
3 18, 2005, at the age of 83; and

4 WHEREAS, A native Texan, Mr. Mischer was born on July 4, 1922,
5 in Karnes County, the son of Walter and Georgia Mischer; growing up
6 in South Texas, he struggled with the early, sudden loss of his
7 father and the economic difficulties of the Great Depression, but
8 with the same resolve that he would exhibit for the rest of his
9 life, Mr. Mischer worked hard to earn the necessary tuition to study
10 engineering at the Texas College of Arts and Industries in
11 Kingsville; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Mischer contributed to the American cause in
13 World War II by supervising the construction of naval bases before
14 turning his talent for building and planning to peaceful purposes
15 in his new hometown of Houston; his innovative approach to
16 residential development aided several generations of Texans in
17 fulfilling their dreams of home ownership, and the respected name
18 of Mischer Investments, his primary business, became synonymous
19 with the growth of Houston into one of the premier cities of Texas
20 and the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Walter Mischer's business acumen was also proven in
22 banking, where his adept management led to the creation of Allied
23 Bancshares in 1971; moreover, he was one of the founders of the
24 Marathon Manufacturing Company, an important energy-services

1 provider, and his enlightened stewardship of his land holdings in
2 West Texas contributed to the creation of Big Bend Ranch State Park,
3 an awe-inspiring preserve that can now be enjoyed by all; and

4 WHEREAS, This thoughtful and perceptive man took an intense
5 interest in the affairs of local, state, and federal government;
6 providing assistance and guidance to a long line of legislators and
7 executives, both Republican and Democrat, Mr. Mischer played an
8 integral role in promoting the careers of some of the most esteemed
9 political figures to hail from Texas, from Lyndon B. Johnson to
10 George H. W. Bush; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Mischer's contributions to his state and to the
12 city of Houston were recognized by the prestigious awards he
13 received in his lifetime, which included being named Outstanding
14 Citizen of Houston in 1965, being inducted into the Texas Business
15 Hall of Fame in 1985, and winning the Impact Award from the West
16 Houston Association in 2004; and

17 WHEREAS, Walter Mischer's unique mix of entrepreneurial
18 genius, civic responsibility, and influential ideas made him a
19 sterling example of what one dedicated individual can accomplish by
20 immersing himself in the political process, not to gain personal
21 glory but to make a positive difference in the world around him;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Walter Max Mischer and
25 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of
26 62 years, Mary Alford Mischer; to his children, Paula Mischer and
27 Walter M. Mischer, Jr., and his wife, Leila; to his grandchildren,

1 Candace Watson, Robert L. Corson and his wife, Olivia, Walter R.
2 Corson and his wife, Jodie, Duncan M. Watson, Walter M. Mischer III,
3 Lawson W. Mischer, and Morgan J. Mischer; to his great-grandsons,
4 Nicholas A. Corson and Andrew Corson; to his sisters, Edna Kerlick
5 and Marilyn Russell and her husband, Tom; and to his many other
6 relatives and friends; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for his family, and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Walter Max
10 Mischer.