

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 41

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Prominent Tyler insurance entrepreneur Billy Earl
2 Hibbs passed away on November 5, 2005, at the age of 67, bringing a
3 great loss to his East Texas community; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to Garlin Earl and Alma Brown Hibbs on
5 September 25, 1938, in Quitman, Mr. Hibbs graduated from Quitman
6 High School, where he met his future wife, Eugenia Stroud; the
7 couple married in 1957 and were blessed with a son, Billy Earl
8 Hibbs, Jr.; and

9 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan bought a small Tyler insurance
10 agency and developed it over the years into one of the largest
11 insurance companies in the Southwest, Heartland Security Insurance
12 Group, with more than 200 employees and six different operating
13 divisions, including the retail insurance agency, Hibbs-Hallmark &
14 Company, two third-party administrators, Claims Administrative
15 Services and CCSI, a premium finance company, Premium Convenience
16 Services, a wholesale broker and underwriter, Patriot National
17 Underwriters, and a property casualty insurance company, Old Glory
18 Insurance Company; in 2005, Hibbs-Hallmark & Company received a
19 Torch Award from the Better Business Bureau for its exemplary
20 marketplace ethics; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Hibbs contributed tirelessly to his beloved
22 community; as president of the East Texas Symphony Association, he
23 was instrumental in relocating performances to the Cowan Center at
24 The University of Texas at Tyler, and as president of the Tyler

1 Civic Theatre, he oversaw construction of the Braithwaite Theatre
2 and the opening of the Rogers Children's Theatre; he served as
3 president of the Tyler Rotary Club and the Centurions of Tyler and
4 was on the board of Leadership Tyler, the Tyler I.S.D. Foundation,
5 the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, and the Better Business Bureau of
6 Central East Texas, which he cofounded; moreover, he enjoyed
7 membership in the Henry Bell Masonic Lodge and the Order of the
8 Rose; in 1999, Mr. Hibbs formed the Hibbs Family Foundation in
9 support of both nonprofit organizations and individuals; and

10 WHEREAS, Throughout his outstanding career and life of
11 service, Mr. Hibbs garnered numerous awards; in 2004, Junior
12 Achievement inducted him into its Business Hall of Fame and
13 UT-Tyler made him a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, its honor business
14 fraternity; the Tyler Rotary Club honored Mr. Hibbs by naming
15 \$1,000 donors to the club's foundation as Billy Hibbs Fellows; he
16 had also been recognized by the Texas Legislature for his capable
17 handling of the losses in the John Tyler High School fire; and

18 WHEREAS, A valued member of Marvin United Methodist Church,
19 Mr. Hibbs served as an usher and was a former trustee; he attended
20 the Pairs and Parents Sunday school class, where he enjoyed the
21 fellowship of many; and

22 WHEREAS, Billy Hibbs derived great joy from his family, his
23 career, and his community, and although his passing has left a void
24 in the lives of those who knew and loved him, memories of his
25 generosity and passion will live on in their hearts for years to
26 come; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Billy Earl Hibbs and
2 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of
3 48 years, Eugenia "Jeannie" Hibbs; to his son, Billy E. Hibbs, Jr.,
4 and his wife, Tisa Weiss Hibbs; to his grandchildren, Stratton
5 Weiss Hibbs and London Elizabeth Hibbs; to his sisters, Dorma
6 Shields and Betty Cassels; and to his many other relatives and
7 friends; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
10 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Billy
11 Earl Hibbs.