

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 52

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life came to a close with the
2 passing of cherished husband, father, and grandfather James Eaves
3 of Tyler on November 28, 2006, at the age of 76, and his family and
4 friends seek to still the pain of loss by remembering his strength,
5 courage, and love; and

6 WHEREAS, Born to J. E. and Ethel Eaves in Pampa on August 26,
7 1930, Mr. Eaves was raised in Longview and graduated from Longview
8 schools in 1948; after his father's death, he benefited greatly
9 from the guidance of coaches Maco Stewart and Ted Jefferies of
10 Stephen F. Austin State University, and he attended college there
11 for his bachelor's degree; he later received his master of science
12 degree in Denton in 1957; and

13 WHEREAS, This respected leader enjoyed a 50-year career in
14 athletics, both as a player and as a coach, that made a positive
15 difference in the lives of countless young Texans; he began his
16 tenure in sports education at Texarkana under the guidance of
17 legendary coach Watty Myers, and he later served at Gainesville
18 High School, where he was one of the youngest individuals to coach
19 basketball at Gainesville Junior College; he then coached in Odessa
20 for seven years and taught in Mesquite before accepting a position
21 at Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler, alongside his high school
22 friend Don Barton; he ended his career at Chapel Hill Independent
23 School District, working as both a teacher and an administrator
24 before his 1987 retirement, when he moved to his farm; and

1 WHEREAS, Through the years, Coach Eaves gave generously of
2 his time and talents as a football official across East Texas and as
3 a member of several civic organizations; a Mason and a Shriner, he
4 served as circus chairman for Sharon Shrine Temple in Tyler for
5 seven years and was a permanent contributor to the Shriners
6 Hospitals for Children; he was also a member of St. John's Masonic
7 Lodge No. 53 and Tyler's SBOA, which presented him its Outstanding
8 Award, as well as an honorary life member of the Great Southwest
9 Officials Association and an inductee of the Stephen F. Austin
10 State University Lettermen's Association Jacks of Honor; and

11 WHEREAS, A man of deep faith, Mr. Eaves was a longtime member
12 of First Baptist Church, worshiping there for 37 years; at the time
13 of his passing, he was a valued congregant of New Beginning Baptist
14 Church; and

15 WHEREAS, Jim Eaves was held in the highest regard by all who
16 knew him, and he brought a generosity of spirit and an unflinching
17 integrity to all his endeavors; he built a life that was remarkably
18 rich in family and friends who will long treasure the memory of this
19 beloved man and think of him with great affection; now, therefore,
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of James Eaves and extend
23 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of 52
24 years, Lela Chism Eaves; to his daughter, Laura Bailey, and her
25 husband, Travis; to his son, Maco Eaves; to his daughter, Colleen
26 Ruppert, and her husband, Jim; to his granddaughters, Genie
27 Talkington, Ginger Talkington, and Tara Talkington; and to the

1 other family members and many friends of this much-loved man; and,
2 be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James
6 Eaves.