

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 108

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A loving family and many friends and colleagues
2 mourn the loss of Gregg A. Cooke of Dallas, an exemplary public
3 servant and a recognized expert in the field of environmental law,
4 who passed away on September 17, 2006, at the age of 51; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in 1955 in Abilene, Gregg Cooke demonstrated
6 his resolve at a young age by taking part in Boy Scout activities,
7 eventually becoming an Eagle Scout; a similar sense of dedication
8 informed his academic pursuits during which he earned a bachelor's
9 degree from Baylor University, a master's degree from the
10 University of Virginia, and a law degree from Baylor; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Cooke began his public service career when he
12 joined the executive staff of Texas Governor Mark White and then
13 turned to private practice at the law firm of Geary, Stahl & Spencer
14 in Dallas; his focus on environmental issues came to the fore when
15 he was appointed chief of the Natural Resources Protection and
16 Energy Division of the Office of the Texas Attorney General; in this
17 capacity, he acted as the state's North American Free Trade
18 Agreement environmental liaison and as the interim general counsel
19 for the Border Environmental Corporation Commission in Juarez,
20 Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Cooke brought his considerable talents to the
22 national stage in 1998, when President Bill Clinton appointed him
23 the administrator of Region VI for the Environmental Protection
24 Agency; he was retained in this position by President George W.

1 Bush, serving until 2003, and later was appointed to the EPA Clean
2 Air Act Advisory Committee; a passionate environmental champion for
3 all Texans, Mr. Cooke proposed a number of innovative solutions and
4 was well known for bringing together unlikely partners to achieve
5 results; and

6 WHEREAS, In addition to his state and federal assignments,
7 his legal career further encompassed work as an environmental
8 lawyer with Haynes and Boone in Austin and Guida, Slavich & Flores
9 in Dallas and as a consultant with the Global Environment &
10 Technology Foundation of Washington, D.C.; a member of the State
11 Bar of Texas, Mr. Cooke was also active in the community, supporting
12 the Shakespeare Festival of Dallas, serving on the Texas Lyceum
13 board of directors, and attending First United Methodist Church of
14 Dallas, where he was a member of the choir; and

15 WHEREAS, Gregg Cooke was a loving husband and father who
16 enjoyed taking part in youth activities with his daughter and
17 traveling the world with his family; he touched many people with his
18 generosity and compassion and brought them joy with his enthusiasm
19 and quick wit, and these qualities will be greatly missed by all who
20 were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
22 Legislature hereby honor the life of Gregg A. Cooke and offer
23 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife,
24 Melanie Cooke; to his daughter, Clara Cooke; to his parents, Horace
25 and June Cooke; to his brother, David Cooke, and his wife, Michele;
26 to his brother, Raymond Cooke, and his wife, Pattie; and to his
27 other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gregg A.
4 Cooke.