

By: Cook of Colorado

H.R. No. 271

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Columbus lost an admired civic leader
2 with the passing of John Alden Hancher on December 30, 2006, at the
3 age of 90; and

4 WHEREAS, Born to E. Grant and Clara Ladd Hancher in El Campo
5 on January 5, 1916, Mr. Hancher attended school in the El Campo
6 Independent School District, received his undergraduate degree
7 from The University of Texas at Austin, and graduated from The
8 University of Texas School of Law in 1940, the same year in which he
9 was admitted to the Texas State Bar; and

10 WHEREAS, Following the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted
11 in the Royal Canadian Air Force in Winnipeg, Canada, on August 4,
12 1941, and trained as a pilot; he was sent to England the following
13 year and served with the RCAF before transferring to the U.S. Army
14 Eighth Air Force Bomber Command in London in 1943; this brave airman
15 flew B-17 bombers on missions over France and Germany and
16 contributed to the Allied victory in Europe; he was discharged from
17 the service in August 1945, after the war concluded; and

18 WHEREAS, After returning to Texas, Mr. Hancher opened a law
19 office in Columbus and practiced there from 1945 until shortly
20 before his death; he also entered public service and was county
21 judge of Colorado County from 1948 to 1954; a prominent figure in
22 the legal profession, he was a member of the State Bar of Texas and
23 the Colorado County Bar Association, serving as its president in
24 the 1950s; and

1 WHEREAS, A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Mr.
2 Hancher met and married his first wife, Louise Beattie, while
3 stationed in England during the war, and their son, Thomas Beattie,
4 was born in 1946; in 1967, Louise Hancher passed away, and Mr.
5 Hancher wed Mary Saladino Sparrow in 1968; they were together for 24
6 years, until Mary's death in 1992; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hancher devoted considerable time to civic
8 organizations; he served as chairman of the board of the Columbus
9 Community Hospital and president of the Columbus Rotary Club and
10 was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 6113 and the
11 American Legion, and he served as a veterans service officer for
12 more than 50 years; he also took great enjoyment in his leisure
13 activities and was an avid fisherman and hunter and a voracious
14 reader; and

15 WHEREAS, John Hancher will be fondly remembered for his legal
16 skill and community leadership and for a distinguished professional
17 and civic career that touched countless lives; now, therefore, be
18 it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of John Alden Hancher and
21 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his son,
22 Dr. Thomas Beattie Hancher and his wife, Christine; to his
23 grandchildren, Heather Hancher Thomas and her husband, Ryan, Dr.
24 Shannon Hancher and her husband, Nicholas Hodges, and Blake
25 Hancher; to his stepchildren, Judy Peabody and her husband, Jim,
26 Nancy Miller and her husband, Stephen, Marianne Sparrow, Chip
27 Sparrow and his wife, Sandy, Susan Schwarz and her husband, Brad,

1 and Scott Sparrow and his wife, Kathy; to his step-grandchildren,
2 Ryan, Meredith, and Jenny Schwarz, Alyssa, Andrea, Brandon, and
3 Ashley Miller, Ryan, Aimee, and Spencer Sparrow, and Shana and
4 Peter Prata; to his great-grandchildren, Tyler Alden and Sage
5 Christine Thomas; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it
6 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 John Alden
10 Hancher.