

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of the Honorable Lloyd Bentsen on
2 May 23, 2006, this state and nation have lost one of the most
3 esteemed and influential American political leaders of recent
4 times; and

5 WHEREAS, Born Lloyd Millard Bentsen, Jr., in Mission on
6 February 11, 1921, the son of a prominent Hidalgo County family,
7 Senator Bentsen graduated from The University of Texas School of
8 Law in 1942; and

9 WHEREAS, He entered the military as a private that same year
10 and served with valor in the U.S. Army Air Corps; at the age of 23,
11 he was promoted to the rank of major and given command of a squadron
12 of 600 men; shot down twice while flying combat missions in Europe,
13 he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with
14 three Oak Leaf Clusters; and

15 WHEREAS, After returning to the Valley in 1945, Senator
16 Bentsen entered the private practice of law in McAllen; he served as
17 county judge of Hidalgo County from 1946 to 1948, when he was sworn
18 in as the youngest member of the U.S. House of Representatives;
19 during the next six years, he became a protege of Congressman Sam
20 Rayburn, who believed the South Texan might one day accede to the
21 speakership; and

22 WHEREAS, Lloyd Bentsen retired from the house in early 1955,
23 however, and moved his family to Houston, where he began a highly
24 successful career in insurance and finance; he returned to the

1 political arena in 1970, winning the first of four consecutive
2 terms in the U.S. Senate; within just a few years, he gained
3 appointment to the powerful Senate Committee on Finance, which he
4 ultimately chaired, and where he became a forceful proponent of
5 trade expansion and pension reform; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1988, Senator Bentsen ran for the office of vice
7 president on the Democratic ticket, together with presidential
8 nominee Michael Dukakis; although defeated, Senator Bentsen
9 impressed voters and political observers alike with his dignified
10 demeanor and quietly commanding presence, and he emerged from the
11 campaign with a national reputation and his stature even further
12 enhanced; that same year, he won reelection to the senate by the
13 widest margin of his career; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Bentsen resigned his seat on January 20,
15 1993, to become President Bill Clinton's first secretary of the
16 treasury; in that capacity, he became one of the architects of the
17 president's deficit-reduction program, guided the new
18 administration's first budget through Congress, and played an
19 instrumental role in the passage of two major trade bills,
20 including the North American Free Trade Agreement; and

21 WHEREAS, Following his retirement from the cabinet in 1994,
22 Senator Bentsen returned to Houston, where he helped to create a
23 billion-dollar private investment firm to finance projects in Latin
24 America; he also traveled widely and chaired the advisory committee
25 of the Beacon Group, a New York investment bank; and

26 WHEREAS, In 1999, President Clinton conferred on Lloyd
27 Bentsen the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal

1 of Freedom; two years later, The University of Texas School of Law
2 bestowed on Senator Bentsen a Lifetime Achievement Award and, with
3 an endowment established by his friends, created the Lloyd M.
4 Bentsen Chair in Law; and

5 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan was married on November 27,
6 1943, to Beryl Ann Longino, a college classmate, with whom he shared
7 a union of more than six decades; and

8 WHEREAS, Renowned for his even temper, self-discipline, and
9 good humor, Senator Bentsen enjoyed the friendship of many members
10 of both parties and excelled at building coalitions to achieve
11 common goals; his service to his country, in both war and peace, is
12 deserving of the deepest appreciation of every American; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Lloyd
16 Bentsen and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family:
17 to his wife, Beryl Ann Longino Bentsen; to his children, Lloyd
18 Bentsen III, Lan Bentsen, and Tina Bentsen Smith; to his
19 grandchildren; and to his other relatives and numerous friends;
20 and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the
24 Honorable Lloyd Bentsen.

Raymond

Craddick	Gattis	Miles
Allen	Geren	Miller
Alonzo	Giddings	Moreno
Anchia	Gonzales	Morrison
Anderson	Gonzalez Toureilles	Mowery
Aycock	Goolsby	Murphy
Bailey	Guillen	Naishtat
Berman	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	O'Day
Bolton	Hancock	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hardcastle	Olivo
Branch	Harless	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Heflin	Parker
Callegari	Hernandez	Patrick
Castro	Herrero	Paxton
Chavez	Hilderbran	Pena
Chisum	Hill	Phillips
Christian	Hochberg	Pickett
Cohen	Hodge	Pierson
Coleman	Homer	Pitts
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Puente
Cook of Colorado	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Corte	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Crabb	Hughes	Riddle
Creighton	Isett	Ritter
Crownover	Jackson	Rodriguez
Darby	Jones	Rose
Davis of Harris	Keffer	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Parker	Smith of Harris
Delisi	King of Taylor	Smithee
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Solomons
Driver	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dukes	Krusee	Straus
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Latham	Talton
Eiland	Laubenberg	Taylor
Eissler	Leibowitz	Thompson
Elkins	Lucio III	Truitt
England	Macias	Turner
Escobar	Madden	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Mallory Caraway	Vaught
Farias	Martinez	Veasey
Farrar	Martinez Fischer	Villarreal
Flores	McCall	Vo
Flynn	McClendon	West
Frost	McReynolds	Woolley
Gallego	Menendez	Zedler
Garcia	Merritt	Zerwas

H.R. No. 718

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 718 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 22, 2007.

Chief Clerk of the House