

By: Crownover

H.R. No. 881

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends mourn the death of businessman
2 Walter Sheridan Harpool of Denton, who passed away January 28,
3 2007, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, Known affectionately as "Pinky," Walter Harpool was
5 born on February 14, 1922, in Hebron, to Josephine and R. T.
6 Harpool, Sr.; the Harpool family have been residents of Denton
7 County since 1873; in 1939 they founded Harpool Seed, Inc., which
8 grew to have offices in Houston, Austin, Denton, Dallas, and
9 Muskogee, Oklahoma; and

10 WHEREAS, Answering his nation's call to duty during World War
11 II, Mr. Harpool served as a pilot in the United States Army Air
12 Force; he trained in California and received his wings in Arizona;
13 he worked as an instructor at Perrin Field in Sherman and trained on
14 the B-17 in Florida before flying as a pilot at Langley Field for
15 radar students; and

16 WHEREAS, Returning to Denton, Mr. Harpool continued to work
17 for the family business; in 1962 he founded a separate firm, Harpool
18 Fertilizer Company, which was the first independent bulk blending
19 fertilizer plant in Texas; as an important agribusiness innovator,
20 he was interested in the latest agricultural techniques and in
21 formulating new and more productive fertilizers for his clients;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Regarded by all who knew him as a man of outstanding
24 character, Mr. Harpool served his community in many ways; chairman

1 of the Denton County Program Building Committee, he also worked
2 with many other agricultural committees; he served on the
3 Agricultural Diversification Board during the administration of
4 Governor Bill Clements, and he was active with the Denton Youth
5 Fair, the North Texas State Fair, the United Way, and the Denton
6 Chamber of Commerce; and

7 WHEREAS, His many contributions to his profession and his
8 community earned him recognition; he was named Man of the Year in
9 Texas Agriculture in 1987 by the Texas Agricultural Extension
10 Service and Conservation Businessman of the Year in 1988 by the
11 Denton County Soil and Water Conservation District; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1987 Mr. Harpool bought an old railroad caboose
13 and renovated it for use as his office; it stood on an old rail spur
14 in Denton, where he enjoyed having friends and customers come to
15 visit him; in 2006 he donated the caboose to the city of Denton in
16 honor of an old friend, Mayor Euline Brock; and

17 WHEREAS, Well loved and widely respected, Pinky Harpool was a
18 straightforward man of outstanding character who gave generously to
19 his community, and he will be long remembered for his
20 accomplishments and his honesty and good humor; now, therefore, be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor the life of Walter Sheridan Harpool and
24 offer sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife,
25 Rose Marie Royall Harpool; to his son, Walter S. Harpool, Jr.; to
26 his brother, Tom Harpool, Jr., and his wife, Rebecca; to his niece,
27 Jerry Watkins, and her husband, Bill; to his sisters-in-law, Opal

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1 Harpool and Oleta McDonald and her husband, Bob; and to his other
2 relatives and friends; and, 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 Walter
6 Sheridan Harpool.