

By: Strama

H.R. No. 960

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Memories of a life well lived may comfort the family  
2 and friends of J. T. Devenport of Austin, who passed away on  
3 November 1, 2006; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on August 9, 1933, in Pilot Point, Tom  
5 Devenport graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1951 and went  
6 on to attend Texas A&M University, where he lettered three years in  
7 swimming and earned a bachelor's degree in 1955; following  
8 graduation, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army before joining  
9 his family's variety store business in Dallas; some years later, he  
10 returned to his hometown and began a career as a savings and loan  
11 executive; he retired in 1999 as a stock broker with RBC Dain  
12 Rauscher; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Devenport was dedicated to the success of his  
14 East Texas community through his involvement in the Jacksonville  
15 Chamber of Commerce and the Jacksonville Rotary Club, both of which  
16 he served as president, and the Region VII Education Service  
17 Center, which he served as a member of the board; moreover, he was  
18 campaign chairman of the 1978 Jacksonville United Fund drive, and  
19 in 1983, he helped raise more than \$500,000 for a new Jacksonville  
20 Public Library building; and

21           WHEREAS, A devoted husband and father, Mr. Devenport shared  
22 more than 46 years with his wife, the former Virginia Nash, and the  
23 couple were blessed with three sons, John, Robert, and James;  
24 Mr. Devenport became a committed member of Boy Scouts of America

1 when his children were young and remained active in the  
2 organization, including as a troop leader on the regional level,  
3 long after they were grown; he was honored for his service with the  
4 District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award; and

5 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan was a longtime member of First  
6 Christian Church in Jacksonville, where he became the church's  
7 youngest elder and twice served as board chairman; after moving to  
8 Austin in retirement, he and his wife sang in the choir of the  
9 University United Methodist Church; in addition, he volunteered his  
10 time as a docent for the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum,  
11 and he was a senior active member and Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary  
12 International; and

13 WHEREAS, Tom Devenport was a gifted leader who brought  
14 enthusiasm and integrity to bear on all his endeavors; although he  
15 will be deeply missed, he will be remembered with great affection by  
16 all those fortunate to have shared in the blessing of his life; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of J. T. Devenport and  
20 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,  
21 Virginia Nash Devenport; to his sons, John Devenport, Jr., and his  
22 wife, Amy, Robert Devenport, and his wife, Trisha, and James  
23 Devenport, and his wife, Andrea; to his grandchildren, Nash,  
24 Zachary, Henry, and Benjamin Devenport and J. T. Devenport III; to  
25 his sister, Dr. Elaine Clary; and to his other relatives and many  
26 friends; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of  
3 J. T. Devenport.