

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.R. No. 1300

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas lost an esteemed leader with the passing of
2 the Honorable Robert Barnes on March 12, 2007, at the age of 78; and

3 WHEREAS, An elected official in Nueces County for 36 years,
4 including 24 years as county judge, Bob Barnes made a lasting mark
5 on the Southeast Texas area, where he was appreciated for his humble
6 character and respected for his diligent oversight of government
7 operations; and

8 WHEREAS, Judge Barnes began his service after being elected
9 as a county commissioner of Nueces County in 1958; he was 29 years
10 old at the time, making him the youngest member of the commissioners
11 court; he was reelected in 1962 and 1966 and then sought the
12 position of county judge in 1970; his electoral victory that year
13 began his extended tenure as the county's chief administrator,
14 which continued until his resignation in 1994; and

15 WHEREAS, During the decades that he presided over the
16 commissioners court, Judge Barnes championed a number of measures
17 that helped Nueces County cope with changing circumstances; he was
18 a powerful supporter of the unit road system that was approved by
19 voters in 1984 to streamline road building and maintenance
20 operations; he also oversaw the construction of a new courthouse
21 and a new jail annex, and he supported efforts of the county to
22 recoup millions of dollars in costs for housing felons in its jails;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, This responsible administrator is remembered for

1 his fiscal conservatism; he continually sought ways to keep costs
2 low, personally reviewing every county purchase order and requiring
3 department heads to justify their expenses and staffing; his close
4 oversight contributed to government efficiency and reinforced the
5 judge's principle of using taxpayer funds as wisely as possible;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Known for his dry wit and quiet demeanor, Judge
8 Barnes avoided the limelight and even refused to have a farewell
9 celebration when he left office; nonetheless, his honesty and
10 distinguished service won the allegiance of the voters who
11 repeatedly reelected him; a reassuring and reliable force who
12 guided the county through a period of immense change, Bob Barnes
13 dedicated himself to the worthy goal of providing effective
14 government for his constituents, and that exceptional legacy will
15 long be remembered by the residents of Nueces County; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Judge Robert Barnes
19 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his
20 wife, Mary; to his children, John Barnes, Robert Barnes, and Martha
21 Barnes Nelson; to his two grandchildren; and to his other relatives
22 and friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge
26 Barnes.