

By: Haggerty

H.R. No. 1429

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Francis John Morin on March 13, 2007,  
2 at the age of 78, has deeply saddened the family and friends of this  
3 well-respected and accomplished El Paso resident; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Medicine Lake, Montana, on November 11,  
5 1928, of American Indian descent, Mr. Morin joined the U.S. Army  
6 when he was about 18 and did two tours of duty in Korea; as a young  
7 soldier, he earned the nickname "Flip" because of his impressive  
8 dives from the high board of the base swimming pool, and the name  
9 remained with him; and

10           WHEREAS, It was in the army that Flip Morin got his start as a  
11 journalist, gaining the skills and honing the sensibility that  
12 would serve him well for the rest of his life; early on, he worked  
13 with the armed forces' Far East Network (FEN) in Tokyo, and he later  
14 covered the army's modern pentathlon team at the 1964 Tokyo  
15 Olympics; and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Morin retired from the army in 1968 after 22  
17 years of active duty and joined the staff of the *El Paso Times*,  
18 where he served for a decade as the golf editor and covered track  
19 and field at The University of Texas at El Paso; he subsequently  
20 took a civil service post as an editor with the Department of  
21 Defense; and

22           WHEREAS, After leaving the DoD, Flip Morin continued to write  
23 about local and regional sports and also exercised his craft in  
24 connection with such events as the Terry Bradshaw/Jim McMahon

1 cancer treatment golf tournaments, the Sun Bowl, and the El Paso  
2 Golf Hall of Fame; published numerous times as a freelance writer,  
3 he additionally focused on topics related to his Native American  
4 heritage; and

5 WHEREAS, Among the traits that contributed to Mr. Morin's  
6 success as a journalist were his friendly demeanor and the immense  
7 pleasure that he took in working with other people; those same  
8 qualities also contributed to the formation of lifelong  
9 friendships, including enduring bonds with such notable figures as  
10 Lee Trevino, Don Haskins, and his former colleague at FEN, Jamie  
11 Farr; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Morin gave generously of his time to the  
13 congregation of Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where he served  
14 as an usher, and to patients at William Beaumont Army Medical Center  
15 in El Paso, where he volunteered extensively with the American Red  
16 Cross; in 2003, the Red Cross honored him with its Volunteer of the  
17 Year award; and

18 WHEREAS, Flip Morin's great love for his family, his friends,  
19 and those he met along life's journey was grounded in his unwavering  
20 Christian faith, and he is remembered with deep fondness by all who  
21 knew and treasured him; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Francis John Morin and  
24 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his beloved  
25 wife of 53 years, Marie; to his children, Francine Greeson, Jamie  
26 Morin, and Philip Morin; to his grandchildren, Andrew, Adrienne,  
27 Patrick, McKenna, and Brennan; and to his other relatives and many

1 friends; and, be it further

2           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Flip Morin.