

By: Cook of Colorado

H.R. No. 1661

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Lee County are mourning the loss of a
2 beloved public servant with the death of Sheriff Joe G. Goodson on
3 April 7, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, The youngest of five children, Joe Goodson was born
5 to Bertha Cottrell and Vernon A. Goodson of Dime Box on Valentine's
6 Day, 1944; he was a star football player at his high school in
7 Giddings, making All-District his sophomore year and All-Centex his
8 junior year; and

9 WHEREAS, After high school, he attended Blinn College, and in
10 1966 he married Brenda Harmel; their union lasted 32 years, until
11 her death in 1998; fortunate to find love again, he married Robyn
12 Mitschke on July 23, 2000; and

13 WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of his father, who had
14 been the sheriff of Lee County for 25 years, Joe Goodson took office
15 in 1978; he placed a priority on upgrading the department's
16 equipment, acquiring patrol cars for officers who had previously
17 been using their own vehicles and ensuring that his staff had the
18 latest communications technology and investigative tools at their
19 disposal; and

20 WHEREAS, In the course of his 29 years as Lee County sheriff,
21 he earned a well-deserved reputation among his colleagues and his
22 community for his fairness and decency; while upholding the highest
23 standards of law enforcement, he also found time to attend funerals
24 in support of grieving families and frequently stopped by the homes

1 of those who were ill; and

2 WHEREAS, Sheriff Goodson's service to Lee County expressed
3 itself in many ways; he initiated the drug-and-alcohol-free party
4 for graduating high school seniors known as Grad Bash, and he was in
5 charge of the Blue Santa Program for 20 years; he also served on the
6 board of directors of the Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce and was
7 active in the March of Dimes; and

8 WHEREAS, He contributed greatly to his profession as
9 president of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas and as a member of
10 various committees of that organization, including the Auto Theft
11 Task Force, the Narcotics Task Force, and the Cold Case Review Team;
12 he headed the Lee County Sheriff's Posse and served on the Attorney
13 General's County Advisory Committee; and

14 WHEREAS, Sheriff Goodson's dedication and commitment were
15 honored by such awards as the YRA Hall of Fame Award, the Peacemaker
16 Award, and the Master Peace Officer Award; in 1990 he was named
17 Giddings Citizen of the Year; and

18 WHEREAS, A devoted father and husband, Joe Goodson cherished
19 his family and took great pleasure in his grandchildren, with whom
20 he shared many happy times; a lover of the outdoors, he was an
21 accomplished gardener who gave away much of what he grew, and he was
22 also an expert cook of barbecue and chili and an elder and usher at
23 Dime Box Brethren Church; and

24 WHEREAS, Joe Goodson combined consummate professionalism
25 with a deep compassion for his fellow citizens, preserving the
26 peace and protecting the public in Lee County for nearly 30 years; a
27 familiar and reassuring presence in his cowboy hat and spotless

1 white shirt, he commanded widespread respect while earning the
2 genuine affection of his family, colleagues, friends, and
3 community; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
5 Legislature hereby honor the life of Sheriff Joe G. Goodson and
6 extend heartfelt condolences to the members of his family: to his
7 wife, Robyn Goodson; to his son, Walt A. Goodson and his wife,
8 Melissa; to his daughters, Jill and her husband, John P. Campbell,
9 and Sarah Jane and her husband, Scott Miller; to his grandchildren,
10 Erin, Zane, Caroline, and Jack; to his stepchildren, Crystal
11 Gray-Morris, Jason Mitschke, Margie Nunes, and Aaron Mitschke and
12 their children; to his brother, Charles Goodson; to his sisters,
13 Mary Frances Symmank and her husband, Ben Charles, and Verna Shaw
14 and her husband, Bill; to his sisters-in-law, Betty Goodson and
15 Sharon Scott; to his brother-in-law, Aubrey Harmel and his wife,
16 Evelyn; to his mother-in-law, Nellie Harmel; to his mother and
17 father-in-law, Betty and Ken Beasley; and to his other relatives
18 and friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sheriff
22 Goodson.