

By: Solomons

H.R. No. 1864

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Countless lives were touched by the kindness and joy
2 of Carl Benjamin Montgomery of Dallas, who died on April 17, 2007;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Born on August 27, 1919, in Sevierville, Tennessee,
5 he grew up in North Texas and became known as "Catfish," which he
6 adopted as part of his legal name later in life; as a youth, he took
7 on a variety of jobs such as shining shoes and delivering papers and
8 milk to earn money; at Carrollton High School, he was president of
9 the student body, was captain of the football, basketball, and
10 baseball teams, and was named Outstanding Athlete of the Year in
11 1938; he earned a football scholarship to attend Southern Methodist
12 University but transferred to North Texas Agricultural and
13 Mechanical College and then North Texas State Teachers College,
14 where he ultimately earned his degree; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1942, Mr. Montgomery joined the U.S. Naval Air
16 Corps and worked in physical rehabilitation; after completing his
17 military service, he was selected as chief of recreation for the VA
18 Hospital in McKinney; switching careers in 1953, he launched
19 Montgomery Chemical, Janitorial Supplies and Janitorial Services;
20 he later opened Carl's House of Furniture and Appliances, and he
21 became a well-known figure in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch area
22 through his work and his many civic activities; and

23 WHEREAS, Dedicated to improving the lives of youth, Catfish
24 Montgomery served as a Boy Scout troop leader and was a member of

1 the board of the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD in the 1960s; he was
2 the leader of the Shriners' Burn Awareness program for many years,
3 providing burn-prevention safety information to countless North
4 Texas children, and for this service was honored by mayors and
5 governors; he also received the prestigious Eagle Award from the
6 University of North Texas for his efforts to reduce high school
7 dropout rates; and

8 WHEREAS, In his leisure time, Catfish Montgomery was involved
9 in many social and service organizations; he was a charter member of
10 the John L. DeGrazier Masonic Lodge, which honored him with the
11 60-year pin and the Golden Trowel Award; a member of the Hella
12 Temple, he devoted thousands of hours to many of their activities,
13 including the Hella Shrine Circus; in 1960, he became a founding
14 member of the Rotary Club of Carrollton-Farmers Branch, and over
15 the years he was honored as one of the organization's Paul Harris
16 Fellows and was named Man of the Year in 2004; and

17 WHEREAS, Catfish Montgomery was also prominent in sports and
18 religious activities; he was a member of the Southwest Football
19 Officials Association for more than 25 years, and he officiated
20 high school and college games throughout North Texas; he also
21 served as honorary chairman of the Tom Landry Golf Tournament that
22 benefited the Fellowship of Christian Athletes; active in several
23 different churches, he was Sunday school president at University
24 Park United Methodist Church, chairman of the board at the First
25 Methodist Church of Carrollton, and three-time lay leader of the
26 First Methodist Church of McKinney; and

27 WHEREAS, Held in the highest regard by all who knew him,

1 Catfish Montgomery will long be remembered for his good humor, his
2 boisterous nature, and his unconditional generosity, and he built a
3 life that was notably rich in family, friends, and accomplishments;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Carl Benjamin
7 "Catfish" Montgomery and offer condolences to the members of his
8 family: to his wife of 63 years, Kathryn Ann "Kay" Baker Montgomery;
9 to his sons, Baker Montgomery and his wife, Mary, and Bill
10 Montgomery and his wife, Susan; to his eight grandchildren, Jeff,
11 Ben, Joan, Ann, Tim, Monty, Porter, and Baker; to his 17
12 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and many friends;
13 and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carl
17 Benjamin "Catfish" Montgomery.