

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 1952

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Dallas lost a visionary media executive
2 and a generous philanthropist and civic leader with the passing of
3 James M. Moroney, Jr., on February 18, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on July 10, 1921, Jimmy Moroney came
5 from a distinguished Texas family that included George Bannerman
6 Dealey, his grandfather, who founded the *Dallas Morning News*; in
7 time, Jimmy Moroney joined the paper himself and later took the helm
8 of the Belo Corporation, the parent company of the *Morning News*, and
9 his astute leadership helped build it into one of the nation's
10 largest publicly traded media organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Moroney's involvement with the *Dallas Morning*
12 *News* began in 1946, shortly after he had concluded his World War II
13 Navy service; his first job was as a reporter, and he held a
14 succession of other positions over the next five years; he next
15 turned his attention to the Belo Corporation, where he joined the
16 board of directors in 1952 and became part of the executive
17 management team; and

18 WHEREAS, In the 1970s and early 1980s, Jimmy Moroney helped
19 bring about the transformation of Belo into a publicly traded
20 company; this period also saw him take on the management of the
21 *Dallas Morning News* by becoming the paper's president and chief
22 executive officer in 1980 and helping to chart its course over the
23 following years; moreover, he continued his rise to the top of the
24 parent company; in the early 1980s, he assumed the positions of

1 president, chief executive officer, and board chair and skillfully
2 supervised the corporation's growth; he retired from many of his
3 duties in 1986, but served on the board of directors until 2000; and

4 WHEREAS, Business was just one aspect of Mr. Moroney's life;
5 he devoted time and financial support to a wide range of charitable
6 causes and community organizations, including the Children's
7 Medical Center Dallas, St. Paul Medical Center, and the
8 Southwestern Medical Foundation; his longtime service as a member
9 of the board of directors for the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas was
10 recognized with the Theodore P. Beasley Award in 1990; and

11 WHEREAS, A member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Dallas
12 for more than half a century, he was active in church-related
13 organizations such as the Catholic Foundation and the National
14 Conference on Catholic Charities, and he helped guide several of
15 the state's Catholic educational institutions, including the
16 University of Dallas, where he served as chair of the board of
17 trustees, the Cistercian Preparatory School, and the Jesuit College
18 Preparatory School of Dallas; in addition, a financial gift from
19 Mr. Moroney and his wife, Helen, was instrumental in the
20 construction of the bell tower at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin
21 of Guadalupe in Dallas; in honor of his many contributions to the
22 Diocese of Dallas, he received the Catholic Foundation Award in
23 2003; and

24 WHEREAS, In addition to his public acts of giving, Mr.
25 Moroney also performed private acts of kindness by helping
26 strangers in need, transporting the elderly to medical
27 appointments, and volunteering for Meals on Wheels deliveries;

1 these actions, as well as his many philanthropic gifts, speak to the
2 essential compassion of Jimmy Moroney; his abiding concern for his
3 fellow citizens and his remarkable business achievements stand as
4 an inspiring combination of personal success and public generosity;
5 now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of James M. Moroney, Jr.,
8 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his
9 wife of 53 years, Helen Claire Wilhoit Moroney; to his children,
10 James M. Moroney III, Michael Moroney, Molly Moroney Norrett, and
11 Mindy Moroney Penrose; to his six grandchildren; and to his other
12 relatives and friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jimmy
16 Moroney.