

By: Kolkhorst

H.R. No. 2956

# RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and community members are mourning  
2 the untimely death of Brenham broadcaster William Prentice Mearns,  
3 who passed away on March 13, 2007, at the age of 50; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Liberty on April 16, 1956, to William Ownby  
5 Mearns, Jr., and Bettye Baillio Mearns, Prentice Mearns attended  
6 Liberty High School, Lee College, and Texas A&M University; and

7 WHEREAS, Early in his life, Mr. Mearns demonstrated a love  
8 for broadcasting, and he began his career in radio at KPXE in  
9 Liberty at the age of 17; in 1978 he moved to Radio Central KWHI in  
10 Brenham, where he worked as an announcer and journalist before  
11 moving on to work with TV Cable News and Northland Cable News; in  
12 2001 he returned to KWHI as AM program director; his baritone voice  
13 was well known to listeners in Brenham through his work as host of  
14 the morning show and the popular "Country Store" program; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Mearns gave generously of his time and energy to  
16 a variety of community organizations; he was active with the Boy  
17 Scouts, beginning as a Tiger Coach in 1996 and holding a number of  
18 positions that culminated in his appointment as unit commissioner  
19 for the Friends of Scouting; he also served as president of the  
20 Brenham Exchange Club and the Brenham Community Theatre and as a  
21 member of the Navasota Theatre Alliance Board, the Brenham Police  
22 Academy Alumni Association, and the St. Mary's Family Choir; in  
23 addition, he shared his talents as a speaker with Lifegift Organ  
24 Donation Services in Houston; and

1           WHEREAS, His accomplishments, both as a professional and as a  
2 volunteer, were often recognized with awards, including the Den  
3 Leader and Webelos Awards, the District Award of Merit, the Extra  
4 Miler Award, and the Troop Community Member of the Year award for  
5 2006 from the Boy Scouts; moreover, his work as a broadcaster and  
6 journalist garnered him many honors from the Texas Association of  
7 Broadcasters as well as a first-place award for editorial writing  
8 from United Press International; the Texas Cable Association  
9 honored him five years in a row for outstanding stories; and

10           WHEREAS, A devoted husband and father, Prentice Mearns loved  
11 cooking, reading, music, and theater; he was a remarkably  
12 accomplished man of various and passionate interests, yet one of  
13 his favorite activities was simply relaxing with his family at the  
14 beach; his enthusiasm for life and his engagement with the people  
15 and the community he loved will be long remembered; now, therefore,  
16 be it

17           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of William Prentice  
19 Mearns and extend deepest condolences to the members of his family:  
20 to his wife, Deidra Kocurek Mearns; to his children, Meredith and  
21 Alex; to his brothers, Craig Mearns and his wife, Jeanne, and David  
22 Mearns and his wife, Mary; to his other loved ones, Amy and Phil  
23 Bentke, Kellen Kocurek, Chris and Carolyn Kocurek, Dolores Kocurek,  
24 Emil Kocurek, Randy Reets, Reagan Bentke, Cara Bentke, Katelyn  
25 Kocurek, Cameron Kocurek, Kathleen Finan, Amanda and Shane Pavlas,  
26 Clay Mearns, Vanessa and Rodney Williams, Jana and Aaron Ballinger,  
27 Jarrot Mearns, Travis Mearns, and Pat Taylor; and to his other

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1 relatives and 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 Prentice  
5 Mearns.