

By: Frost

H.R. No. 2976

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of New Boston lost a dedicated civic
2 leader and friend of the community with the passing of Dr. Paul
3 Henry Atkinson on November 19, 2006, at the age of 74; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Old Salem in Bowie County on September 10,
5 1932, Paul Henry Atkinson attended James Bowie High School in Simms
6 before earning degrees from Sam Houston State University and the
7 Baylor Dental School; he married Vira Jo Bennett on August 15, 1953,
8 and shared 52 happy years of marriage with his beloved wife before
9 her passing on January 31, 2006; and

10 WHEREAS, A caring and respected dentist in the Texarkana area
11 for many years, "Dr. Paul" was actively engaged in his community; a
12 member of the Texarkana Rotary Club, he also maintained a longtime
13 interest in public education, as evidenced by his service on the
14 Pleasant Grove ISD Board of Trustees from 1965 to 1974; he served as
15 secretary of the school board for a year and led the group as
16 president for five years; he also enjoyed professional affiliations
17 with the Ark-La-Tex Dental Society, which he served as president,
18 and the Texarkana Dental Society; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Atkinson continued his involvement in community
20 life after his move to New Boston; a member of the New Boston City
21 Council from 1980 to 1995, he was active with the New Boston Chamber
22 of Commerce for many years, serving as chamber president in 1984,
23 and earning that organization's prestigious Lloyd Wilson
24 Outstanding Citizen Award in 1987; and

1 WHEREAS, Perhaps his most enduring achievement was his role
2 in the establishment of the New Boston Public Library, a facility
3 that existed only nominally before Dr. Atkinson took on the
4 challenge of organizing and modernizing the library so that it
5 better served the public; he served as chair of the city's library
6 board for more than 25 years; he was also active with the New Boston
7 Lions Club; skilled with his hands, he enjoyed working in metal and
8 was trained as a master historic knife craftsman; and

9 WHEREAS, Through his commendable service to the communities
10 of Texarkana and New Boston, Paul Henry Atkinson improved the lives
11 of countless citizens; a man of integrity and loyalty, he is deeply
12 missed, but his legacy of good works ensures that he will not soon
13 be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Paul Henry
16 Atkinson and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family:
17 to his daughter, Robin Woodson, and her husband, Joe; to his sons,
18 Dr. Jeff Atkinson and his wife, Dr. Janee Atkinson, and Kevin
19 Atkinson; to his brother, Hamp Atkinson; to his grandchildren,
20 Grant Woodson and his wife, Lauri, Emily Atkinson, and Kyle
21 Atkinson; to his friend, Ruth Talbot; and to his other relatives and
22 many friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Paul
26 Atkinson.