

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 985

In Memory
of
Joe E. Briscoe

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Devine in mourning the loss of the Honorable Joe E. Briscoe, who died April 4, 2007, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, Judge Joe E. Briscoe was a lawyer, longtime church and community leader, World War II veteran, and regent for two universities; and

WHEREAS, He was born in Devine on May 8, 1914, and lived in Devine and San Antonio all his life except for the three and one-half years he served with the Quartermaster Corps in the Pacific Theater of Operations during World War II; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from San Antonio Junior College in 1933 and earned a bachelor of laws degree from the San Antonio Public School of Law in 1936; he was later awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Corpus Christi, where he served as a trustee; and

WHEREAS, He was a member of the board of regents of Baylor University for 18 years and served as vice chairman of the board; he was named an honorary alumnus by the university, and he and his wife established scholarships at Baylor for undergraduate and law students; and

WHEREAS, He practiced law in Devine until 1979, when he became the first judge of the Medina County Court at Law, a position he held until 1991; he continued to serve as a visiting judge in district and county courts in South Texas until 2001; and

WHEREAS, He was also a developer and builder of five subdivisions in Devine; he helped to organize and served as a director of Castroville State Bank and Gill Savings and Loan Association; and

WHEREAS, He was a devout man who lived his faith in his daily life; a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Devine since 1948, he served twice as chairman of the deacons and taught Sunday school for almost 50 years; he also served as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Joe Briscoe was a highly esteemed gentleman noted for his professionalism, his high moral values, and his compassion for others; he was an inspiration to all who knew him; and

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WHEREAS, He was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves to mourn his loss a devoted family and many loyal friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Joe E. Briscoe: his wife of 65 years, Gene Aubrey Briscoe; his daughters and sons-in-law, Dr. Harriet Harral and her husband, Paul, and Joanne Jones and her husband, Ben; and his four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Joe E. Briscoe.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 8, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate