

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a distinguished native son
2 and legendary champion of the underdog with the passing of Jim
3 Mattox of Dripping Springs on November 20, 2008, at the age of 65;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on August 29, 1943, James Albon
6 Mattox was the oldest child of a union sheet-metal worker and a
7 waitress; he worked his way through Baylor University, initially
8 intending to enter the ministry; when President John F. Kennedy was
9 assassinated in his own hometown, he felt called to public service,
10 and after earning his law degree from Southern Methodist
11 University, he became an aide to U.S. Representative Earle Cabell
12 in the Fifth Congressional District; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Mattox went on to join the Dallas County
14 district attorney's office as a criminal prosecutor; in 1973, he
15 began the first of two terms in the Texas House of Representatives,
16 where he helped draft the state's first open-records law as a member
17 of the bipartisan reform group "the Dirty 30" and was instrumental
18 in the passage of consumer protection laws; after winning the Fifth
19 Congressional District seat in 1976, he was elected to the powerful
20 House Budget Committee, a singular achievement for a freshman, and
21 during his three terms, this dynamic legislator chaired that
22 committee's Task Force on National Security and Veterans Affairs
23 and served on the Banking and Finance and Corporate Affairs
24 Committees; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1982, Mr. Mattox was elected to the first of two
2 remarkable terms as Texas attorney general; fearless in the face of
3 controversy and unrelenting in his commitment to consumer rights,
4 he took on airlines, automakers, insurance companies, and more; he
5 made Texas a national leader in prosecuting deceptive advertising
6 practices and won millions of dollars in settlements for the state;
7 in addition, he battled for struggling single parents and their
8 children, bringing sweeping change to the system for collecting
9 child support, and he greatly increased gender and racial diversity
10 in the attorney general's office; and

11 WHEREAS, Even after beginning a private law practice,
12 Mr. Mattox remained a lion in Democratic politics and continued to
13 strive for progressive causes and reform; he served as a delegate at
14 numerous national conventions and contributed in myriad ways during
15 the 2008 election cycle; most recently, he testified at a hearing on
16 his party's "Texas two-step" system for nominating presidential
17 candidates and drew a standing ovation for his rousing words; and

18 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Mr. Mattox helped support and
19 nurture his young brother and sister after his mother's untimely
20 death; moreover, he enjoyed a rewarding marriage of 18 years to
21 Marta Mattox and cherished their two children, Jim and Janet; as
22 engaging and generous as he was outspoken, he will be deeply mourned
23 by those who knew him, from his childhood neighbors to his
24 colleagues in public office; a Texan who cast a long shadow, Jim
25 Mattox raised his voice loudly for working Americans, and his
26 achievements will continue to resonate in this state for many years
27 to come; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas,
2 1st Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the memory of Jim
3 Mattox and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to
4 his wife, Marta; to his son, Jim; to his daughter, Janet; to his
5 sister, Janice; to his brother, Jerry; and to his other friends and
6 admirers across the country; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
10 Jim Mattox.

Hodge

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Peña
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 3 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on July 2, 2009.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 3 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on July 2, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor