

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Citizens of Paris, Texas, lost an admired community  
2 leader with the passing of the Reverend James M. Elsom on February  
3 15, 2009, at the age of 85; and

4           WHEREAS, James Elsom was born in Alvord on August 5, 1923, to  
5 George M. Elsom and Goldie May Ledbetter Elsom; after graduating  
6 from Pampa High School, he attended Texas A&M University and  
7 Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, where he earned his  
8 bachelor's and master's of divinity degrees; committed to the  
9 service of others from an early age, he took time from his studies  
10 to serve with the U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific theater during  
11 World War II; and

12           WHEREAS, In 1942, Mr. Elsom was joined in matrimony to the  
13 former Maurice Conner, and together they were blessed with four  
14 children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren; and

15           WHEREAS, A man of strong and unswerving faith, Mr. Elsom  
16 answered the call to the ministry in the mid-1950s; in 1964,  
17 Reverend Elsom moved to Paris and began his pastorate at Ramseur  
18 Baptist Church; over the course of his 14-year tenure there, the  
19 church grew from a congregation of less than 200 to more than 700,  
20 and it also moved to a spacious new sanctuary; and

21           WHEREAS, Reverend Elsom went on to found Victory Baptist  
22 Church of Paris, where he spent his final years as a full-time  
23 minister; he also helped found Combined Insurance Associates in  
24 1989, and he served as a member of the Paris Chamber of Commerce;

1 named pastor emeritus of Ramseur Baptist Church nearly two years  
2 ago, he remained active in the ministry late in life, continuing to  
3 conduct weddings and funerals and share his wisdom with those in  
4 need; and

5 WHEREAS, The Reverend Jim Elsom dedicated his life to his  
6 faith, to his family, and to his community, and memories of him will  
7 continue to inspire all those who were privileged to know him; now,  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas  
10 hereby pay tribute to the life of the Reverend James M. Elsom and  
11 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
12 wife, Maurice Elsom; to his children, Linda Kay Wolfgang and her  
13 husband, Fred, Gregg M. Elsom and his wife, Kim, and Barry L. Elsom  
14 and his wife, Pat; to his grandchildren, Beth Keener, Jim  
15 Ledbetter, Brad Rountree and his wife, Karin, Gail Blaylock and her  
16 husband, John, and Cassie Elsom; to his great-grandchildren, Adam  
17 Keener, Austin Blaylock, Jack Blaylock, Kyle Rountree, and Rachael  
18 Rountree; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
22 the Reverend James M. Elsom.

Homer

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 100 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 26, 2009.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 100 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on April 21, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor