

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 100

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.