

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 191

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of educator William S. Long of Hopkins County on April 6,
3 2009, at the age of 96; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Samuel and Edith Long, "Pete" Long was
5 born in Addran on January 25, 1913, and was a lifelong Hopkins
6 County resident; after graduating from Sulphur Springs High School,
7 he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from East Texas State
8 Teachers College in Commerce and began his career as the only
9 instructor at a school in Macedonia; on June 1, 1935, he married the
10 former Evelyn "Eva" Ruth Chapman, a fellow educator, and they later
11 became the parents of four children; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Long taught in Addran and Birthright and was
13 instrumental in the consolidation of their schools in the North
14 Hopkins Independent School District in the early 1940s; in
15 addition, he taught aviation electronics as a civilian instructor
16 at Sheppard Field during World War II; he served North Hopkins ISD
17 as a teacher, coach, and principal before becoming superintendent,
18 a position he held for 35 years; to the faculty and staff, he and his
19 wife were "Mr. Pete" and "Miss Ruth", and the couple fostered a
20 family atmosphere, organizing monthly restaurant outings and
21 hosting Christmas parties at their home; and

22 WHEREAS, A caring mentor and exemplary role model, Mr. Long
23 encouraged participation in athletics, agriculture, and other
24 activities, even chauffeuring students to basketball games and to

1 livestock shows as far away as Houston; he won the lasting respect
2 and admiration of his students, who continued to pay visits to the
3 Longs at their home after they had retired; their son, Tommy, became
4 district superintendent in 1988; and

5 WHEREAS, In his retirement, Pete Long remained an
6 enthusiastic fan of the North Hopkins Panthers and supported them
7 with regular attendance at ball games; he was also a farmer and
8 cattle rancher, and he and Mrs. Long enjoyed traveling together
9 with friends and family until her death in 1999; and

10 WHEREAS, This dedicated professional held lifetime
11 memberships in the Parent-Teacher Association, the Texas State
12 Teachers Association, the Texas Retired Teachers Association, and
13 the Texas Association of School Administrators, and he served on
14 the boards of the Hopkins County Civic Center and the Region VIII
15 Service Center; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Long was also an active member of his community,
17 serving as chair of Sulphur Springs/Hopkins County Crime Stoppers
18 and as a charter member of the local chapter of Golden K Kiwanis;
19 among other civic contributions, he participated in the Rural Urban
20 Organization, which named him Outstanding Citizen in 1986; his
21 numerous other accolades included recognition as an Outstanding
22 Older Texan by Governor Bill Clements; moreover, for nearly 70
23 years, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Sulphur Springs, and
24 the Master Mason was also a valued member of North Hopkins Baptist
25 Church, where he was a deacon and longtime Sunday school teacher;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Pete Long left a lasting imprint on countless lives

1 through his commitment to education and to his community, and
2 memories of this beloved Texan will forever be treasured by all
3 those who were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
5 hereby pay tribute to the life of William S. Long and extend deepest
6 sympathy to the members of his family: to his sons, William Long and
7 his wife, Georgie, Tommy Long and his wife, Carolyn, and Frank Long
8 and his wife, Juli; to his daughter, Sammie Bedford; to his
9 grandchildren, Julie, William, Kristin, John, Reid, Ami, and Sam
10 Long, Shawn Brewer and his wife, Lauri, and Brian Brewer and his
11 wife, Jeannie; to his great-grandchildren, Cara, Colton, Clay,
12 Austin, Autumn, Kate, and Emma; to his sister, Margaret Glosup; to
13 his sisters-in-law, Edna Grant and Agnes Chapman; to his
14 brother-in-law, Harve Chapman, and his wife, Martha Kate; and to
15 his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
19 Pete Long.