

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 25

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost an admired athlete, coach,  
2 and youth development leader with the passing of former Olympic  
3 swimmer Tex Julian Robertson on August 27, 2007, at the age of 98;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Tex Robertson was born in Sweetwater on April 23,  
6 1909, to Frank G. Robertson and Nancy Emerson Robertson; as a boy,  
7 he learned to swim in a flooded creek and was known to practice his  
8 aquatic skills in a horse trough; and

9           WHEREAS, A graduate of Sweetwater High School, Mr. Robertson  
10 attended the University of Southern California and Los Angeles  
11 Junior College, and he received a bachelor of arts degree from the  
12 University of Michigan and a bachelor of science degree from The  
13 University of Texas; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson demonstrated his impressive swimming  
15 skills at the University of Michigan, where he won Big 10 and NCAA  
16 championships, and he was a member of the 1932 United States Olympic  
17 Team; from the mid-1930s to 1943 and again from 1946 to 1950, he  
18 coached swimming at The University of Texas, where he led the UT  
19 team to the Southwest Conference championship in each of the 13  
20 seasons that he served as coach; and

21           WHEREAS, During World War II, he interrupted his coaching  
22 career to serve in the United States Navy as a swimming instructor  
23 and a trainer of underwater demolition teams; and

24           WHEREAS, In 1939, Mr. Robertson married Pat Hudson, and

1 together they founded Camp Longhorn; the summer camp began with one  
2 guest and 17 counselors but grew steadily through the years to  
3 become a well-known and well-loved Texas institution; today, it  
4 continues to host more than 4,000 campers each summer at two  
5 locations; Mr. Robertson also played an important role in founding  
6 the Camping Association for Mutual Progress to promote youth  
7 camping in Texas; and

8         WHEREAS, Throughout his life, he was an influential swimming  
9 advocate, founding the organizations Working Exes for Texas  
10 Swimming and Texas Age Group Swimming and actively supporting the  
11 growth of the sport at the high school level; for his efforts as an  
12 athlete, coach, and swimming ambassador, he was inducted into the  
13 Longhorn Hall of Honor in 1965 and received the Gold Medallion Award  
14 from the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2003; and

15         WHEREAS, Mr. Robertson won national and international titles  
16 in Masters Swimming competitions and continued to engage in his  
17 favorite sport well into his 90s; in 2007, he was recognized with  
18 the Texas Masters Swimming Lifetime Achievement Award; and

19         WHEREAS, This energetic and caring man was also active in the  
20 life of his community; he was instrumental in the creation of a  
21 range of organizations and events, including the Burnet Community  
22 Center, the Honor Citizen Program, and Citizens of Burnet Schools;  
23 he was honored by the Lower Colorado River Authority in 1998 with  
24 his induction into the LCRA Walk of Honor; and

25         WHEREAS, In the course of the many years that he lived in the  
26 Lone Star State, Tex Robertson promoted the joys and rewards of  
27 aquatic exercise and the outdoors, and he played an important role

1 in the growth of competitive swimming; he will be deeply missed, but  
2 he will live on in the fond memories of the generations of swimmers  
3 and campers whose lives he enriched; now, therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Tex Julian Robertson  
6 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
7 wife of 67 years, Pat Robertson; to his sons, John Robertson and his  
8 wife, Donna, Robby Robertson and his wife, Deidra, and Bill  
9 Robertson and his wife, Carol; to his daughters, Sally Lucksinger  
10 and Nancy Manning and her husband, Bobby; to his 18 grandchildren  
11 and four great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and  
12 friends; and, be it further

13       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tex Julian  
16 Robertson.