

By: McReynolds

H.R. No. 481

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of Texas lost an inspired advocate for  
2 the state's wildlife and natural resources with the passing of John  
3 D. Parker of Lufkin on January 26, 2009, at the age of 73; and

4           WHEREAS, Possessing a deep love of nature, Mr. Parker was  
5 appointed as a commissioner for the Texas Parks and Wildlife  
6 Department in 2003 after a enjoying a successful career as a home  
7 builder; during his time on the TPWD nine-member commission, he  
8 helped lead efforts to obtain increased funding for state and local  
9 parks and ably carried out the duties of his position until the time  
10 of his death; and

11           WHEREAS, John Parker was born on June 17, 1935, in Shidler,  
12 Oklahoma, the son of Peggy and Vol Parker; during his 21-year career  
13 in the residential construction industry, he served as president of  
14 Parker Homes, which includes divisions in Lufkin and Abilene;  
15 widely respected by his colleagues, he was director of the National  
16 Association of Home Builders, president of the Deep East Texas  
17 Association of Builders, and area vice president of the Texas  
18 Association of Builders; moreover, his efforts to establish the  
19 Texas Residential Construction Commission in the 78th Texas  
20 Legislature earned him the President's Award from the Texas  
21 Association of Builders in 2004; and

22           WHEREAS, An avid outdoorsman, Mr. Parker contributed to  
23 numerous conservation organizations; he was national trustee and  
24 Texas state chair for Ducks Unlimited and president for both the

1 Cherokee and the Angelina Wildlife Associations, in addition to  
2 many other affiliations; his work at the TPWD began in November  
3 2003, when Governor Rick Perry selected him as a commissioner; his  
4 tenure extended for more than five years and was highlighted by his  
5 focus on youth outreach programs and his support for a new fish  
6 hatchery in Jasper as well as his contributions toward  
7 reinvigorating the parks system; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Parker was an active member of the congregation  
9 of Denman Avenue Baptist Church, and he enjoyed the love and support  
10 of his wife, Barbara, and the other members of his family; in all  
11 aspects of his life, John Parker was known for his determination and  
12 hard work, and by devoting himself to the preservation of the  
13 state's natural treasures, he realized many admirable  
14 accomplishments that will be appreciated by Texans for years to  
15 come; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of John D. Parker and  
18 extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his  
19 wife, Barbara S. Parker; to his sons, Adam Parker and his wife,  
20 Rosanne, Alex Parker and his wife, Linda, and Arthur Parker; to his  
21 grandchildren, Caleb Parker and his wife, Samantha, Maigan Parker,  
22 Luke McCreary, and Wil McCreary and his wife, Cassie; to his  
23 great-grandson, Jacob McCreary; to his sister, Ramona Buescher; and  
24 to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of

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1 John D. Parker.