

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 795

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The residents of New Braunfels lost a devoted
2 community leader with the passing of Gheral Thomas Purdum on
3 October 8, 2008, at the age of 80; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in San Antonio on April 18, 1928, to J. L. and
5 Imogene Purdum, Tom Purdum graduated early from Brackenridge High
6 School and joined the U.S. Marine Corps on his 17th birthday; he
7 served in Guam and in Washington, D.C., as a member of the Silent
8 Drill Platoon; and

9 WHEREAS, His career in civic service began with the San
10 Antonio Jaycees; he joined the group while attending Trinity
11 University and working at Smith Motors, and he was the
12 organization's president in 1956 and 1957; Mr. Purdum went on to
13 serve in the Uvalde Chamber of Commerce for three years before being
14 hired as chamber of commerce manager in New Braunfels, where he was
15 instrumental in the creation and promotion of Wurstfest, the city's
16 renowned annual festival; his exceptional work with the
17 organization led to his promotion to executive director, and he
18 held that title for 25 years; and

19 WHEREAS, This dedicated Texan held a number of important
20 posts with local and regional organizations; he served as president
21 of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives, the New Braunfels
22 Rotary Club, and the Comal County Community Fund, as vice-chair of
23 the New Braunfels Economic Development Corporation and as public
24 affairs director and director of customer services for the Lower

1 Colorado River Authority; in addition, he was a charter board
2 member of the Greater Austin-San Antonio Corridor Council, a
3 founding member of the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio,
4 and president of the Hummel Museum and Art Gallery in New Braunfels;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Purdum received numerous accolades for his
7 achievements, including the Besserung Award as citizen of the year
8 for New Braunfels, selection as Grosse Opa for Wurstfest 2000, the
9 Marvin Hurley Award from the Texas Chamber of Commerce Executives,
10 and one of only eight honorary life memberships in the Texas
11 Economic Development Council; moreover, he was one of the first
12 three individuals given the title of Living Legend of New
13 Braunfels, and he received an honorary Texan of the Year award from
14 the Texas Legislative Conference; and

15 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Purdum enjoyed the love
16 and support of his wife, Bobbie, and their family; and

17 WHEREAS, Tom Purdum will be greatly missed by all who knew
18 him, but his admirable dedication and the many contributions he
19 made to his community will long remain an inspiration to residents
20 of the city he loved so well; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Gheral Thomas Purdum
23 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
24 wife, Bobbie Purdum; to his children, Sande Herbelin, Candy Sober,
25 Sue Brown, Hal Herbelin, Tommy Purdum, Brad Herbelin, Martha
26 Bellamy, and Mike Purdum; to his brother, Jack Purdum; to his
27 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives

1 and friends; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom Purdum.