

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 957

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Pittsburg, Texas, lost a distinguished
2 community leader with the passing of the Honorable D. H. Abernathy
3 on September 24, 2008, at the age of 96; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Abernathy took a prominent role in the
5 government of his community for 57 years, 52 of which he served as
6 mayor; his service as an elected official began in 1949, when he was
7 elected to the city council, and concluded with his retirement as
8 mayor in 2006, when he was in his early 90s; during that period, he
9 missed only eight city council meetings, which is a testament to his
10 dedication to his work as a public servant; and

11 WHEREAS, Hailing from a prominent area family, Mr. Abernathy
12 was the great-great-great-nephew of W. H. Pitts, for whom Pittsburg
13 is named; he graduated from the city's high school in 1929 and went
14 on to attain a mechanical engineering degree from the University of
15 Oklahoma; employment in Oklahoma and Arkansas kept him away from
16 his hometown for a number of years, but he ultimately returned to
17 Texas and worked as the city electrical inspector for 23 years and
18 as an employee of Lone Star Steel for 30 years; he and his wife,
19 Laverne, raised three children and later had the pleasure of seeing
20 their family extend to third, fourth, and fifth generations; and

21 WHEREAS, Mayor Abernathy's dedication to his community and
22 county extended beyond his duties as an elected official; he was
23 active in the Camp County Arts Council, the Camp County Ambulance
24 Service, and First Methodist Church, and he was president of the

1 Camp County Chamber of Commerce; his input benefited regional and
2 state organizations as well, including the East Texas Council of
3 Governments and the Texas Municipal League, both of which he served
4 as president, as well as the Fire Advisory Committee for the Texas
5 Forest Service and the Northeast Texas Economic Development
6 District executive committee; and

7 WHEREAS, Committed to the ongoing development of
8 northeastern Texas, Mayor Abernathy became a vocal advocate for
9 improving the region's network of roads, and he was a founder and
10 president of the East Texas Gulf Highway Association and a member of
11 the Texas Good Roads/Transportation Association; his efforts were
12 honored with the Road Hand Award from the Texas State Highway
13 Commission and with the naming of D. H. Abernathy Boulevard;
14 moreover, his many achievements in office garnered a number of
15 other accolades through the years, including Man of the Year Awards
16 from both the Camp County Chamber of Commerce and the Pittsburg
17 Business and Professional Women; and

18 WHEREAS, D. H. Abernathy helped guide Pittsburg and the
19 surrounding area through an era that encompassed tremendous change,
20 yet his allegiance to faithfully serving his constituents was
21 constant, and his legacy of wise leadership will resonate far into
22 the future; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mayor D. H. Abernathy
25 and extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his
26 wife, Laverne Abernathy; to his children, W. David Abernathy, Mary
27 Lou Spradling, and Betty Ann Harrel and her husband, Dennis;

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1 to his 8 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and 2
2 great-great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends;
3 and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mayor
7 Abernathy.