

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Honorable L. DeWitt Hale, who rendered  
2 exceptional service to this state as a longtime member of the Texas  
3 House of Representatives, is celebrating his 92nd birthday on June  
4 10, 2009; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Caddo Mills and raised in Farmersville, Mr.  
6 Hale graduated as salutatorian from Farmersville High School in  
7 1934; a talented speaker, he excelled at debate both in high school  
8 and at The University of Texas, where he earned a bachelor's degree  
9 and, in 1940, a law degree with honors; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Hale won election to the Texas House of  
11 Representatives from Collin County in 1938 and became the youngest  
12 member of the 46th Legislature; after leaving UT, he held several  
13 government posts before joining the United States Army Air Forces;  
14 he served on active duty from 1943 to 1946, earning the Army  
15 Commendation Medal and advancing from private to first lieutenant;  
16 following his discharge, he continued to serve for a number of years  
17 in the air force reserve; and

18           WHEREAS, In 1946, Mr. Hale moved to Corpus Christi to  
19 practice law; six years later, he won election again to the Texas  
20 Legislature, and, with the exception of one term, he continued to  
21 serve as a representative from Nueces County until 1978; during his  
22 lengthy tenure in the house, he gained a reputation for fairness,  
23 thoroughness, and a superlative mastery of the legislative process,  
24 qualities that often resulted in his being given especially

1 difficult legislative assignments; and

2         WHEREAS, Throughout his career as a representative, Mr. Hale  
3 staunchly championed education and the judiciary; among the  
4 numerous measures he was instrumental in passing were the  
5 Hale-Aikin school finance program, the Texas Education Code, the  
6 Legislative Reorganization Act of 1961, and the Women on Juries and  
7 Equal Rights Amendments to the Texas Constitution; in addition, he  
8 played a vital role in securing many projects that improved the  
9 quality of life in his district, and he handled the legislation that  
10 made the University of Corpus Christi a state-supported  
11 institution; and

12         WHEREAS, Mr. Hale chaired the House Judiciary Committee for  
13 eight years, as well as the General Investigating, Public Lands and  
14 Buildings, and Rules of the House Committees; he also co-chaired  
15 the planning committee for the 1974 Constitutional Convention, and  
16 during the convention he chaired the judiciary committee; chosen  
17 speaker pro tem for 1961-1963, he was recognized as dean of the  
18 house of representatives during his last four years in office; and

19         WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan holds membership in a  
20 number of professional and veterans organizations and is a valued  
21 congregant of First Baptist Church of Austin; he has received a host  
22 of accolades for his legislative endeavors, including life  
23 membership in the League of United Latin American Citizens and  
24 multiple awards from educators and the State Bar of Texas; and

25         WHEREAS, DeWitt Hale and the former Carol Moore were married  
26 on June 8, 1947, and they became the parents of two daughters, Janet  
27 Sue and Nancy Carol; the devoted couple enjoyed more than 60 years

1 together, until Mrs. Hale's passing in 2008; and

2 WHEREAS, The integrity, breadth of vision, and legislative  
3 skill that DeWitt Hale brought to public office contributed  
4 immeasurably to the governance and progress of Texas, and his  
5 myriad achievements continue to enrich the Lone Star State; now,  
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
8 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable L. DeWitt Hale for his  
9 outstanding public service and extend to him sincere best wishes  
10 for a joyful birthday celebration; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for Mr. Hale as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
13 House of Representatives.

Howard of Travis

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Peña
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

H.R. No. 1242

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1242 was adopted by the House on April 23, 2009, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House