

By: Howard of Travis

H.R. No. 1242

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.