

By: Hamilton

H.R. No. 1380

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Silsbee lost a respected civic and
2 business leader with the passing of Harold Newton Hopkins on
3 February 17, 2009, at the age of 92; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Bessmay on March 26, 1916, to Ethel Newton
5 and Harold Cobb Hopkins, "Newt" Hopkins attained the rank of Eagle
6 Scout at the age of 14 and graduated from Kirbyville High School in
7 1933; he studied at Lamar Junior College and the United States
8 Military Academy at West Point before enrolling at The University
9 of Texas and earning a bachelor's degree in business
10 administration; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins worked for several years at Humble Oil
12 and Refining Company before answering his nation's call to duty
13 with service in the U.S. Army during World War II; he served as
14 personnel officer, adjutant, and camp commander at Camp Mexia in
15 East Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, Following his military service, Mr. Hopkins
17 returned to Silsbee and found employment in the family ice
18 business; he eventually took over operations of the Silsbee Ice
19 Company, and he was a member of the board of the National Ice
20 Association and served as president of the Southwestern Ice
21 Association; and

22 WHEREAS, This esteemed community leader served his fellow
23 citizens in numerous capacities through the years; he was president
24 of the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce and the Silsbee Kiwanis Club, and

1 he was a founder and president of the Silsbee Country Club; in
2 addition, he was a member of the local school board and the board of
3 directors of Hardin County Memorial Hospital, and he was named
4 Citizen of the Year by the Silsbee Chamber of Commerce in 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, A devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Mr.
6 Hopkins married the former Joyce Kirgan and the couple enjoyed 63
7 rewarding years together; they raised a loving family that grew to
8 include 4 children, Joy, Jane, Newton, and Lynn, as well as 10
9 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins were
10 longtime members of the First Baptist Church of Silsbee; and

11 WHEREAS, Newt Hopkins was a passionate supporter of The
12 University of Texas and he took great delight in playing golf,
13 discussing politics, and spending time with his family; in all of
14 his endeavors, he exhibited a vibrant sense of humor and an
15 endearing zest for life, and he will be remembered fondly by all
16 those fortunate enough to share in his company; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Harold Newton
20 Hopkins and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to
21 his wife, Joyce Kirgan Hopkins; to his children, Joy Crenshaw and
22 her husband, Will, Jane Lakey and her husband, Robert, Newton
23 Hopkins, Jr., and Lynn McKim and her husband, James; to his
24 grandchildren, Heather Petkovsek, Will, Casey, and Colby Crenshaw,
25 Eugenia Brotherton, Newton Hopkins III, Kirgan Hopkins, and
26 Caroline, Jim, and Elizabeth McKim; to his sisters, Winnie Caro and
27 her husband, Fred, and Frances Allen and her husband, Andrew; to his

1 12 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends;
2 and, be it further

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