

By: Farabee

H.R. No. 1390

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The death of former Wichita Falls police chief  
2 Curtis R. Harrelson on March 29, 2009, at the age of 69, has deeply  
3 saddened the community he served with enormous dedication for more  
4 than three decades; and

5           WHEREAS, A native of Wichita Falls, Mr. Harrelson was born on  
6 March 31, 1939, to Wilson and Mabel Harrelson; his family moved to  
7 Archer City when he was 10, and after graduation from Archer City  
8 High School, he enlisted in the United States Army; on May 1, 1959,  
9 he married the former Martha Jean Worley, and while he was serving  
10 as a military police officer in Huntsville, Alabama, the couple  
11 became the proud parents of two sons; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Harrelson joined the Wichita Falls Police  
13 Department in 1962 and worked as a juvenile investigator and auto  
14 theft investigator before helping to organize the narcotics  
15 section; while rising through the ranks, he graduated from the FBI  
16 National Academy and earned his bachelor's degree in criminal  
17 justice from Midwestern State University; he became chief of police  
18 in March 1977 and his strong leadership was crucial when a tornado  
19 struck the city some two years later; and

20           WHEREAS, During his 20-year tenure as chief, Curtis Harrelson  
21 worked diligently to place his department at the forefront of crime  
22 prevention; he instituted Operation ID and neighborhood watch  
23 programs that influenced other departments, and collaborated with  
24 numerous law enforcement agencies to establish the North Texas

1 Regional Drug Enforcement Task Force; in addition, he reinstated  
2 the department's motorcycle unit and K9 teams; and

3 WHEREAS, Chief Harrelson was a mentor to countless young  
4 officers and a role model in the wider community; he founded Police  
5 Explorer Post 500 to introduce teenagers to career opportunities in  
6 law enforcement and helped area residents form a Wichita Falls  
7 Crime Stoppers organization; his writing talent enlivened the  
8 departmental newsletter he started, and he published a moving  
9 article in *Texas Police Journal* headlined "Who says cops don't  
10 cry?"; and

11 WHEREAS, From an early age, this dynamic Texan loved  
12 aviation, and after his retirement in 1997, he flew pipeline for 11  
13 years; a certified FAA instructor, he taught many people to become  
14 pilots; he was a valued member of Faith Village Church of Christ and  
15 a devoted family man who enjoyed spending time with his seven  
16 grandchildren; his many interests included hunting, four-wheeling,  
17 and working on the computer, and he belonged to the Rockin Wheels  
18 chapter of the Good Sam Club for RV travelers; moreover, he  
19 participated in such activities as the Hotter 'N Hell Hundred  
20 bicycling event; and

21 WHEREAS, Curtis Harrelson was widely admired for his  
22 integrity, professionalism, and commitment to public safety, and he  
23 had a positive impact on Wichita Falls that continues to resonate;  
24 he will long be remembered by the many people whose lives he  
25 touched; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Curtis R. Harrelson

1 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
2 wife, Jean Harrelson; to his sons, David Harrelson and his wife,  
3 Beth, and Dennis Harrelson and his wife, Sue; to his daughter, Dana  
4 Wilson, and her husband, Randal; to his grandchildren, Jared, Josh,  
5 Caleb, Casey, Kari, Stephen, and Daniel; to his brother, Don  
6 Harrelson, and his wife, Donna; to his sister, Carolyn Askins, and  
7 her husband, Sammie; to his mother-in-law, Lucille Worley; to his  
8 brother-in-law, William Worley, and his wife, Beverly; and to his  
9 many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

10         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Curtis  
13 Harrelson.