

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Longtime Naples businessman and community leader  
2           Hershel G. Welch passed away on April 20, 2009, at the age of 73; and

3           WHEREAS, Born on June 11, 1935, to Myrtle and Rube Welch,  
4           Hershel "Sweetpea" Welch grew up in Naples and graduated from James  
5           Bowie High School; he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in 1957  
6           from Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the Corps of  
7           Cadets, and to serve his country as a member of the U.S. Army and  
8           Army Reserves; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Welch took over his father's business, Welch  
10          Butane, in 1968, and under his guidance, the company expanded into  
11          three retail locations and became known as WelchGas; from 1977 to  
12          2007, he also operated Welch Energy, a propane transport company;  
13          he further contributed to his profession as president of the Texas  
14          Propane Gas Association and as board chair of the Texas Propane  
15          Insurance Trust; through the years, WelchGas was honored for its  
16          outstanding marketing efforts by the National Propane Gas  
17          Association and the Railroad Commission of Texas; and

18          WHEREAS, Dedicated to his fellow citizens, Mr. Welch shared  
19          his time and talents with numerous organizations, including the  
20          Naples United Fund, which he served as chair, and the Naples Chamber  
21          of Commerce and the Naples-Omaha Lions Club, both of which he served  
22          as president; in addition, he was a board member of the Morris  
23          County National Bank and was instrumental in the funding and  
24          construction of a downtown Naples gazebo in honor of the city's

1 former business and civic leaders; and

2 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan continued his military service  
3 until 1979, when he retired as a lieutenant colonel, and in 2007,  
4 after some 50 years of involvement with the company, he handed over  
5 the ownership of WelchGas to his son, Wes; and

6 WHEREAS, Although many people are saddened by the loss of  
7 Hershel "Sweetpea" Welch, they will long treasure their memories of  
8 him as a man of great diligence, generosity, and ability; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Hershel G. Welch and  
12 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of  
13 30 years, Roleta Welch; to his sons, Wes Welch and his wife, April,  
14 and Greg Wilcox and his wife, Lori; to his grandchildren, Zachary  
15 and Cannen Welch, Grant and Caroline Wilcox, and Kristopher, Kira,  
16 and Kayla Scott; and to his other relatives and many friends; and,  
17 be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Hershel G.  
21 Welch.

Frost

H.R. No. 1836

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1836 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 14, 2009.

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Chief Clerk of the House