

By: Frost

H.R. No. 1836

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.