

By: Harper-Brown

H.R. No. 2231

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The citizens of Irving lost an admired civic leader  
2 with the death of former mayor Morris Holland Parrish on April 30,  
3 2009, at the age of 82; and

4           WHEREAS, Born a twin on January 28, 1927, near Tenaha, Morris  
5 Parrish was the son of Fred and Lena Parrish; he graduated from  
6 Tenaha High School in 1943 and went on to serve his country during  
7 World War II and the Korean War as a hospital corpsman in the U.S.  
8 Navy; he subsequently earned a bachelor's degree from Stephen F.  
9 Austin State University and a master's degree in hospital  
10 administration from Northwestern University; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Parrish enjoyed a long career as a hospital  
12 administrator, serving at Memorial Hospital in Houston, Memorial  
13 Hospital in Nacogdoches, and Irving Community Hospital before  
14 retiring in 1987; along the way, he was appointed as a member of the  
15 Board of Nurse Examiners by Governor William Clements; and

16           WHEREAS, Later selected as executive director of the Irving  
17 Arts Center by the Irving City Council, Mr. Parrish developed an  
18 enthusiasm for public art, which became a defining characteristic  
19 of his service as a council member and as mayor for four years; a  
20 strong advocate for mass transit, as well, he worked for the  
21 expansion of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit service and fought for  
22 Irving's continued inclusion in DART's territory; and

23           WHEREAS, Mr. Parrish further distinguished himself as a  
24 member of the Dallas Mobility Coalition, the Tollway Committee for

1 the Dallas Region, the DART Arts Committee, the executive committee  
2 of the North Texas Council of Governments, the executive committee  
3 of the North Texas Commission, and the Metroplex Mayors  
4 Association, which he chaired; in addition, he was a deacon at  
5 Plymouth Park Baptist Church, and he was particularly proud of the  
6 role he played in establishing the Irving Healthcare Foundation, an  
7 organization that raises funds for nonprofit health care; and

8 WHEREAS, Dedicated to improving the world around him, Morris  
9 Parrish inspired others with his energy and generosity, and he will  
10 long be remembered by all who were privileged to share in the  
11 richness of his life; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Morris Holland  
14 Parrish and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to  
15 his wife, Marjorie Parrish; to his children, Richard Parrish and  
16 Judith Bolch; to his grandchildren, Sam, Danny, and Alex Parrish  
17 and Beau and Ali Bolch; to his twin brother, Mitchell Parrish, and  
18 his wife, LeFern; to his sister-in-law, Jean Parrish; and to his  
19 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Morris  
23 Parrish.