

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 2820

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The nation lost a passionate champion of economic  
2 opportunity and inclusive democracy with the death of Jack Kemp on  
3 May 2, 2009, at the age of 73; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Los Angeles in 1935, John French Kemp, Jr.,  
5 graduated from Occidental College, where he started as quarterback;  
6 he went on to a successful 13-year career in professional football  
7 and led the Buffalo Bills to two American Football League  
8 championships; as a founder and president of the AFL Players  
9 Association, he helped African American athletes fight  
10 discrimination, and when they were barred from nightclubs and cabs  
11 in New Orleans, he supported the boycott of an all-star game in the  
12 city; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Kemp made a graceful transition from sports into  
14 politics, winning the first of nine terms in the United States House  
15 of Representatives in 1970, representing western New York; his low  
16 tax platform and advocacy of supply-side economics laid the  
17 groundwork for Ronald Reagan's economic program and presidential  
18 victory, and Mr. Kemp was elected chair of the House Republican  
19 Conference, the third-ranking leadership post; in the next  
20 administration, he was appointed secretary of housing and urban  
21 development by George H. W. Bush and strove with tireless resolve  
22 to revitalize the nation's inner cities, closing down failed  
23 housing projects and championing the establishment of enterprise  
24 zones to encourage development and job creation; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1996, Bob Dole chose him as his presidential  
2 running mate; after their campaign ended, Mr. Kemp focused on his  
3 work as a codirector of Empower America, a public policy and  
4 advocacy organization that he founded with former secretary of  
5 education William Bennett and former U.N. ambassador Jeane  
6 Kirkpatrick, and as head of Kemp Partners, a Washington, D.C.,  
7 strategic consulting firm; in recent years, he co-chaired the  
8 Russia Task Force of the Council on Foreign Relations and served on  
9 the Saving America's Cities Working Group; he helped form a new  
10 nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank, the Foundation for the Defense  
11 of Democracies; moreover, he served on numerous corporate boards,  
12 wrote a popular syndicated column, and was much in demand as a  
13 speaker; and

14           WHEREAS, For decades, this respected statesman and  
15 self-described "bleeding-heart conservative" advocated for civil  
16 rights and sought to improve the lives of all Americans; a devoted  
17 family man, he was supported in his endeavors by his wife, Joanne  
18 Kemp, their children, Jeffrey, Jennifer, Judith, and Jimmy, and  
19 their 17 grandchildren; and

20           WHEREAS, Jack Kemp set an inspirational example of public  
21 service, and through his commitment to freedom, progress, and  
22 equality, he played an important and enduring role in moving our  
23 nation forward; now, therefore, be it

24           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Jack Kemp and extend  
26 sincere condolences to his family and many friends.