

By: Moody

H.R. No. 2931

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost an admired public servant  
2 with the passing of the Honorable Stephen Franklin Preslar of El  
3 Paso on March 2, 2009, at the age of 90; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Coleman County, Stephen Preslar was born  
5 to Sanford and Cora Preslar on March 27, 1918; he graduated from  
6 Ranger High School and went on to attend the University of North  
7 Carolina, the University of Iowa, Carmell College, and George  
8 Washington University, where he earned his J.D.; and

9 WHEREAS, Judge Preslar worked in Washington, D.C., as a  
10 fingerprint specialist with the FBI and as an officer for the United  
11 States Capitol Police from 1940 through 1950, and he further served  
12 his country in the U.S. Navy and Naval Air Corps during World War  
13 II; and

14 WHEREAS, Returning to his beloved home state, Judge Preslar  
15 practiced law in McCamey for 13 years; as his legal career evolved,  
16 he was elected Upton County Attorney and later District Judge for  
17 the 112th Judicial District; in 1963, this esteemed Texan was  
18 appointed by Governor John Connally as Associate Justice of the  
19 Eighth Court of Appeals in El Paso; in 1973, he was named the 10th  
20 Chief Justice of the Eighth Court of Appeals, and for a decade after  
21 his retirement in 1986, he continued to work as a visiting judge;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Preslar was a distinguished jurist who  
24 dedicated his life to the service of the people of Texas; a mentor

1 and model of public service to three generations of judges and  
2 attorneys, he is also credited with developing legislation that  
3 created and dedicated funding for county law libraries across the  
4 state; and

5 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Chief Justice Preslar shared  
6 62 years with his wife, Avis McKelvain Preslar, who was his constant  
7 and true companion, offering him encouragement and support  
8 throughout their marriage; he was also the proud and loving father  
9 of three sons, Stephen, Samuel, and Robert; and

10 WHEREAS, Imbued with a deep commitment to fairness and the  
11 law, Judge Preslar contributed immeasurably to his community, his  
12 country, and his profession, and the wide respect and admiration he  
13 enjoyed testify to the profound impact of his life and legacy; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Chief Justice Stephen  
17 Franklin Preslar and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
18 family: to his wife, Avis Preslar; to his son, Robert Lee Preslar;  
19 to his grandchildren, Kim, Allison, Sarah, and Kelsey; to his  
20 great-grandchildren, Dean and Vaughn; to his colleagues on the  
21 Eighth Court of Appeals; and to his other relatives and friends;  
22 and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge  
26 Stephen Preslar.