

By: Lyne

H.R. No. 129

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Citizens across North Texas and beyond have lost an  
2 esteemed public servant with the passing of the Honorable Graham  
3 Boynton Purcell, Jr., of Wichita Falls on June 11, 2011, at the age  
4 of 92; and

5           WHEREAS, The son of Graham and Della Key Purcell, Graham  
6 Purcell, Jr., was born and raised in Archer City; after graduating  
7 from the local high school, he attended Texas A&M University and  
8 served his country as a member of the U.S. Army's Horse Cavalry in  
9 World War II; during his notable military tenure, he earned the rank  
10 of commander of the Headquarters Company of the IV Army Corps, and  
11 he was awarded the Army Silver Star for gallantry in action; and

12           WHEREAS, Following his honorable discharge in 1946,  
13 Mr. Purcell continued his service as a member of the U.S. Army  
14 Reserve; he resumed his studies at A&M and completed his bachelor's  
15 degree before graduating from Baylor Law School and beginning his  
16 legal career at firms in West Texas and Wichita Falls; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Purcell was appointed to the 89th District Court  
18 by Governor Allan Shivers in 1955; six years later, he was elected  
19 to represent the 13th Congressional District in the U.S. House of  
20 Representatives, where he served for more than a decade; a member of  
21 the agriculture and post office committees, he also helped to  
22 reinstate the Congressional Prayer Breakfast and was instrumental  
23 in bringing the NATO Pilot Training Program to Sheppard Air Force  
24 Base; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Purcell concluded his exceptional tenure in  
2 Congress in 1972 and went on to practice law as a founding partner  
3 at Bishop, Cook, Purcell & Reynolds in Washington, D.C.; in 1988, he  
4 returned home to Texas and played an active role in the Wichita  
5 Falls community; he and his wife, Nancy, received the Patsy Baggett  
6 Award for their efforts in behalf of children in crisis, and in  
7 1993, he was recognized for his public service when the Graham  
8 B. Purcell, Jr., Post Office and Federal Building was named in his  
9 honor; and

10           WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Purcell was blessed  
11 with the support of his family, which eventually grew to include 8  
12 children, 25 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren; preceded in  
13 death by his first wife, Betty, he went on to share 40 years with his  
14 second wife, Nancy; and

15           WHEREAS, Admired for his integrity and his gift for  
16 storytelling, Graham Purcell was also known for being a good  
17 listener and for bringing out the best in others; he made a  
18 meaningful difference in the lives of his loved ones and fellow  
19 citizens alike, and his contributions to his community and to the  
20 Lone Star State will resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be  
21 it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
23 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
24 the Honorable Graham Boynton Purcell, Jr., and extend deepest  
25 sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Nancy Attebury  
26 Purcell; to his sons, Blaine Purcell and his wife, Barbara, Blake  
27 Purcell and his wife, Cathy, Davis Purcell and his wife, Jenny, and

1 Kell Purcell and his wife, Beverly; to his daughters, Jannie  
2 Stewart and her husband, Jay, Melissa Killmer and her husband,  
3 Bill, May Lynn Turtletaub and her husband, David, and Sarah Bell and  
4 her husband, Vincent; to his 25 grandchildren and 5  
5 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and many friends;  
6 and, be it further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Graham  
10 Boynton Purcell, Jr.