

By: Hamilton

H.R. No. 176

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the passing of esteemed restaurateur A. J. Leger of
3 Beaumont on May 31, 2011, at the age of 71; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Lafayette, Louisiana, on May 1, 1940,
5 Mr. Leger began working at the age of 10, delivering both the
6 morning and evening newspapers; he embarked on a 50-year career
7 with Don's Seafood and Steakhouse as a 12-year-old busboy at the
8 Lafayette restaurant; graduating from Lafayette High School, he
9 served his country in the United States Marine Corps for six years
10 before returning to Don's Seafood as kitchen manager; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Leger moved to the restaurant's Baton Rouge
12 location as a kitchen manager and then opened a Don's in Shreveport
13 in 1965; three years later, he built a new Don's Seafood in Beaumont
14 and was both a working partner and manager; the restaurant became
15 one of the city's most successful establishments and Mr. Leger
16 received numerous accolades; in 1974, he was named Outstanding
17 Restaurateur Sabine Area Chapter by the Texas Restaurant
18 Association, and in 1997, the Texas Restaurant Association inducted
19 him into its Hall of Honor; he retired from the business in 2002 and
20 then worked for six years at Kymoco Signs and Graphics; and

21 WHEREAS, For more than four decades, Mr. Leger was an active
22 member of the Sabine Area Restaurant Association, and he served as
23 its president in 1979; he was a founding member of the Taste of the
24 Triangle and served as chair and honorary chair, and SARA dedicated

1 the event to him in 1991; above all, he enjoyed cooking for
2 community events, including fund-raisers for the Young Men's
3 Business League, the Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, the City
4 of Beaumont, the Fire Museum of Texas, and Boys' Haven; famous for
5 his gumbo, he estimated, with characteristic humor, that he had
6 cooked enough of it to float a battleship; he also served on the
7 boards of Boys' Haven, the Fire Museum, and Cooks 2 Dozen Plus,
8 among other organizations; and

9 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan enjoyed a long and happy marriage
10 to his high school sweetheart, the former Patricia Guidry, and he
11 was devoted to his daughters, Rhonda, Angie, and Jodie, his
12 grandchildren, Ashley, Kyleigh, Morgan, Cody, Drew, and Mason, and
13 his many friends; in his leisure, he enjoyed golfing, hunting, and
14 gardening; and

15 WHEREAS, A. J. Leger made a positive difference in his
16 community and enriched the lives of innumerable people through his
17 kindness and joie de vivre; although he is deeply missed, treasured
18 memories of time spent in his company remain to comfort those he
19 left behind; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
21 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
22 A. J. Leger and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
23 family: to his wife, Patricia Guidry Leger; to his daughters,
24 Rhonda Crabtree and her husband, Guy, Angie LaBiche and her
25 husband, Dohn, and Jodie Rutledge and her husband, John; to his
26 grandchildren, Kyleigh, Morgan, and Cody Crabtree, Drew LaBiche,
27 and Mason Rutledge; and to his many other relatives and friends;

1 and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
5 A. J. Leger.