

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 1

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a distinguished native son
2 with the death of former governor Dolph Briscoe, Jr., on June 27,
3 2010, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, Dolph Briscoe, Jr., was born in Uvalde on April 23,
5 1923, to Dolph Briscoe, Sr., a prominent oilman and rancher, and
6 Georgie Briscoe; his family had deep roots in Texas, and his
7 ancestors included Andrew Briscoe, a signer of the Texas
8 Declaration of Independence, and Randolph Foster, one of Stephen F.
9 Austin's Old Three Hundred colonists; raised in the company of many
10 famous Texans of the day, Dolph Briscoe, Jr., glimpsed his future as
11 a nine-year-old in 1932, when he spent the night at the Governor's
12 Mansion and slept in a bed once used by Sam Houston; and

13 WHEREAS, He graduated as valedictorian of Uvalde High School
14 in 1939 and went on to graduate from The University of Texas, where
15 he was editor of the *Cactus* yearbook; answering his nation's call to
16 duty during World War II, this patriotic Texan enlisted in the U.S.
17 Army and served in the China-Burma-India theater of operations; and

18 WHEREAS, Returning stateside, Dolph Briscoe settled in his
19 hometown with his wife, the former Janey Slaughter, whom he met and
20 married while a student at UT; he soon entered politics, winning
21 election to the Texas House of Representatives in 1948, and, once in
22 office, made it his priority to pass legislation creating a
23 statewide system of farm-to-market roads; the Colson-Briscoe Act of
24 1949 subsequently helped revolutionize the farm economy in Texas;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Representative Briscoe left the legislature after
3 eight years to take over the family ranch, and in 1960, he became
4 the youngest president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers
5 Association; he worked hard in that role to advocate for screwworm
6 eradication, and his efforts eventually led to a successful program
7 that is still considered one of the most important developments in
8 the history of the industry; among the many other organizations
9 that benefited from Dolph Briscoe's leadership through the years
10 are the South Texas Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Chamber of
11 Commerce, the National Livestock and Meat Board, the Mohair Council
12 of America, and the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County; and

13 WHEREAS, He became the 40th governor of Texas in 1972, and in
14 1974, he won reelection by carrying 247 of the state's 254 counties;
15 in 1975, a law went into effect that extended the governor's term of
16 office, making Governor Briscoe the first to serve a four-year
17 term; during his tenure, he signed into law a series of ethics
18 reform measures, as well as the Texas Open Records Act, granting the
19 public access to government records; he also signed legislation
20 creating the Texas Public Utility Commission; and

21 WHEREAS, Following his political career, Governor Briscoe
22 remained active in ranching and served as senior chair of the
23 family-owned First State Bank of Uvalde; moreover, he devoted
24 himself to philanthropic work, giving generously to the UT System
25 in particular, with gifts to the UT Health Science Center at San
26 Antonio, UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, and UT Southwestern
27 Medical Center; in 2008, he donated \$15 million to the Center for

1 American History at UT-Austin, which was later renamed in his
2 honor; he was especially concerned with Texas history and
3 traditions, and when the Governor's Mansion burned, he was the
4 first to contribute toward its restoration; and

5 WHEREAS, Governor Briscoe drew strength from his long and
6 loving partnership with Mrs. Briscoe until her passing in 2000, and
7 he also enjoyed the love and support of two daughters and a son; and

8 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State gained immeasurably from the
9 vision, initiative, and outstanding contributions of Dolph
10 Briscoe, and his legacy will continue to shape the lives of Texans
11 for years to come; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Dolph Briscoe, Jr.,
14 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
15 son, Dolph Briscoe III; to his daughters, Janey Briscoe Marmion and
16 Cele Briscoe Carpenter; to his five grandchildren; and to his other
17 relatives and friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
21 Governor Dolph Briscoe.