

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost a distinguished and pivotal
2 figure in Texas politics on May 29, 2011, with the death of former
3 governor William P. Clements, Jr.; and

4 WHEREAS, The state's second-longest-serving governor and
5 first Republican governor since Reconstruction, Bill Clements was
6 initially elected in 1978, having never before run for public
7 office; he served until 1983 and then made a stunning comeback four
8 years later to serve another term; and

9 WHEREAS, During his combined eight-year tenure, he
10 established a reputation as an efficient, business-like chief
11 executive, and his gubernatorial appointments generally reflected
12 a results-oriented approach; he also named the first two women to
13 the Texas Supreme Court and the first African American to the Texas
14 Court of Criminal Appeals; moreover, he took a leading role in the
15 war on drugs and advocated powerfully for anticrime bills passed by
16 the legislature, and he initiated an extensive renovation of the
17 State Capitol; and

18 WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on April 13, 1917, Bill Clements was
19 an all-state guard on the Highland Park High School football team;
20 he was offered athletic scholarships but turned them down in order
21 to help his family during the Great Depression; after working in
22 South Texas as a roughneck and driller, he attended The University
23 of Texas at Austin and graduated from Southern Methodist University
24 in 1939; he returned to the oil fields, and in 1947 he and two

1 partners borrowed the money to buy two oil rigs and start a company,
2 SEDCO, which grew to become the world's largest oil drilling
3 contracting firm; and

4 WHEREAS, This self-made multimillionaire initially rejected
5 attempts by Texas Republicans to recruit him for public office
6 though he worked actively in the party; in 1972, he served as Texas
7 co-chair of President Richard Nixon's reelection campaign, and he
8 was appointed deputy secretary of defense the following year and
9 remained at the Pentagon during the Ford administration; he decided
10 to run for governor in 1978 and surprised many when he defeated a
11 better-known opponent; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the years, Governor Clements was a generous
13 benefactor of institutions of higher education; he and his wife,
14 Rita, contributed well over \$20 million for facilities, programs,
15 and professorships at SMU, and he served several terms as a member
16 and officer of the board of trustees; through his support, the
17 university's William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies
18 developed into an internationally known catalyst for research,
19 publishing, and public programming in a variety of disciplines
20 related to the American Southwest and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands;
21 named trustee emeritus in 1991, he was also recognized with the
22 Mustang Award, an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree, and the
23 SMU Distinguished Alumni Award; in 2009, Governor Clements
24 continued his philanthropy and gave a remarkable \$100 million to UT
25 Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, the largest single gift in
26 the history of the institution; and

27 WHEREAS, Plain-spoken, pragmatic, and dedicated to the

1 prosperity of the Lone Star State, Bill Clements brought a business
2 perspective to government, and his achievements will continue to
3 resonate in the lives of his fellow Texans for years to come; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable William P.
7 Clements, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
8 family: to his wife, Rita Crocker Clements; to his daughter, Nancy
9 Clements Seay; and to all those who mourn the passing of this
10 esteemed Texan; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
14 former governor Bill Clements.

Branch
Straus
Hilderbran

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 2 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 30, 2011.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 2 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on May 30, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor