

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 404

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Arlington lost one of its influential
2 leaders with the passing of former mayor and longtime city council
3 member SJ Stovall on July 14, 2010, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on September 26, 1925, in Lufkin, SJ Stovall
5 received his two-letter first name when his parents put his
6 father's initials on his birth certificate as a temporary measure
7 and ended up never changing it; he served his nation as a member of
8 the U.S. Air Force and studied at Texas A&M University before taking
9 a position with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, where he worked
10 for 34 years; and

11 WHEREAS, After being assigned to the Arlington area, Mr.
12 Stovall and his family settled in the city in 1950; his career in
13 local government began in 1963 when he was first elected to the city
14 council; his engineering background was of great benefit during the
15 years when Interstate 20 was constructed through the Metroplex, and
16 he also provided key input and guidance on numerous other issues
17 during his 14 years as a council member; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1977, he was serving as mayor pro tem when Mayor
19 Tom Vandergriff unexpectedly announced that he was leaving office;
20 Mr. Stovall took over as mayor and remained in that post for six
21 years; his tenure was highlighted by his successful support for the
22 building of the Arlington Convention Center and an adjacent hotel
23 on land that had previously been occupied by a failed theme park
24 owned by the city; the convention center project boosted the city's

1 stature and finances and is credited with laying the groundwork for
2 further development; in addition, Mayor Stovall helped convince a
3 number of companies to establish operations in Arlington and was
4 instrumental in the founding of Leadership Arlington; and

5 WHEREAS, This accomplished public servant opted not to seek
6 reelection in 1983; soon after stepping down, he was appointed to
7 the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, where he served with
8 distinction until 1985; he also held other prominent positions
9 through the years, including service as president of the North
10 Central Texas Council of Governments, as chair of the Central
11 Regional Waste Water System Advisory Committee, and as a member of
12 the boards for Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex and Arlington
13 Memorial Hospital; and

14 WHEREAS, In recognition of his many contributions, the City
15 of Arlington named SJ Stovall Park in his honor in 1991; that
16 tribute is a reflection of the great respect that was afforded Mayor
17 Stovall by his fellow citizens, and he will be fondly remembered and
18 greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable SJ
22 Stovall and extend deepest condolences to the members of his
23 family: to his son, Marc Stovall; to his daughter, Elizabeth
24 Stovall; to his sister, Marilyn Stovall; and to his other relatives
25 and friends; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

H.R. No. 404

1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of SJ Stovall.