

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 431

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The passing of Harrison M. Sewell of Mesquite on  
2 December 21, 2010, at the age of 85, brought to a close an exemplary  
3 life lived in service to others; and

4           WHEREAS, Harry Sewell was born to Lee and Mary Jo Sewell on  
5 May 4, 1925, in Nocona; he joined the U.S. Coast Guard following  
6 high school, and during World War II he served on the destroyer  
7 escort USS *Howard D. Crow*, which helped to sink a German submarine  
8 off the New Jersey coast on February 11, 1945; after four years in  
9 the coast guard, he was discharged with the rank of fire control  
10 technician second class; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Sewell and his beloved wife, the former Jimmie  
12 Laverne Smith, became the parents of four children, Sheree, Harry,  
13 Suzanne, and Kevin, and shared 61 rewarding years of marriage until  
14 her passing in 2007; he had the pleasure of seeing his family grow  
15 to include 5 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren; and

16           WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan attended Southwestern  
17 Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie and spent more than two  
18 decades evangelizing at churches and revivals throughout the  
19 nation; in 1966, Harry Sewell answered the call to start a church in  
20 North Texas, and, with his family and a few other worshipers, he  
21 organized Family Cathedral of Praise in Pleasant Grove; located in  
22 Mesquite since 1994, the church today is home to a diverse  
23 congregation of about 2,000 individuals who support a charter  
24 school and numerous ministries, including those for motorcyclists,

1 for the deaf, for Spanish speakers, and for the imprisoned; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Sewell, who eventually became pastor emeritus,  
3 began churches in Africa and South America, and in 2006 the Harry M.  
4 Sewell School of English was established by his admirers in  
5 Valledupar, Colombia; a recent expansion is making English classes  
6 available to students at five more schools in that nation; and

7 WHEREAS, Devoted to his faith and his family, Harry Sewell  
8 had an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless people, and he  
9 will be remembered with deep affection and admiration by all who  
10 knew him; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Harrison M. Sewell  
13 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
14 children, Sheree Sewell Stacy, Harry Lee Sewell and his wife,  
15 Debbie, and Suzanne Sewell Mayo and her husband, J. D.; to his  
16 siblings, Dorothy Newman, Virginia "Ginger" Mitten, Donald Sewell,  
17 and Sara Wisener; to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and  
18 to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Harry  
22 Sewell.