

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Joseph W. Samuels, owner and publisher of the *Jewish*  
2 *Herald-Voice* and a beloved figure in the Jewish community of  
3 Houston, passed away on January 19, 2011, at the age of 95; and

4           WHEREAS, The eldest of three children, Joe Samuels was born  
5 in Dallas on December 10, 1915, to Tillie Marion Wiener and Morris  
6 Joseph Samuels; he lost his father when he was 13 years old and  
7 spent the next five years with his siblings in the Jewish Children's  
8 Home in New Orleans; and

9           WHEREAS, Settling in Houston at the age of 18, Mr. Samuels  
10 worked at the post office, sold Remington typewriters, and produced  
11 dramas for a local radio station, and he was later able to further  
12 his education by taking classes at Rice University and the  
13 University of Houston; he met the love of his life, Jeanne, at a  
14 city bus stop, and the two were married in 1943; after enlisting in  
15 the U.S. Army Air Corps, he served in Africa and Europe during World  
16 War II, and then remained in the reserve until he retired with the  
17 rank of lieutenant colonel; and

18           WHEREAS, On returning to Houston after the war, Mr. Samuels  
19 opened a record and radio shop with his brother, and the two took  
20 turns managing the business while completing their degrees; he and  
21 his wife also began their family, and their son, Marc, was born in  
22 1948, followed by two daughters, Maurene and Vicki; he helped found  
23 the B'nai B'rith Downtown Lodge and published its newsletter, and he  
24 later opened an insurance agency and a real estate office; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Samuels purchased the *Jewish*  
2 *Herald-Voice* in 1973 and began a remarkable tenure as owners and  
3 publishers that lasted for nearly four decades; under the direction  
4 of the couple, the newspaper, which has been in print for more than  
5 a century and is one of the oldest Jewish papers in the country, has  
6 consistently championed the underdog and worked to fight injustice;  
7 in addition, by overseeing the *Jewish Herald-Voice*, Mr. Samuels was  
8 able to realize a dream held by his father, who had run a printing  
9 business but had not lived long enough to begin a Jewish newspaper  
10 of his own; and

11           WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan was a friend to synagogues and  
12 organizations such as the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston,  
13 Jewish Family Service of Houston, Seven Acres Jewish Senior Care  
14 Services, and Holocaust Museum Houston; he was also a strong  
15 supporter of the nation of Israel, visiting there more than a dozen  
16 times, and receiving the Defender of Jerusalem Award along with his  
17 wife in 2002; moreover, he gave financial backing to the Jewish  
18 Children's Regional Service and hosted reunions for others who had  
19 lived in the New Orleans children's home where he spent part of his  
20 youth; and

21           WHEREAS, Through industry and tireless advocacy, Joe Samuels  
22 became a legendary figure in his community, and his efforts did much  
23 to promote unity, shared values, and mutual assistance among the  
24 Jewish citizens of Houston and the State of Texas; now, therefore,  
25 be it

26           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Joseph W. Samuels

1 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
2 wife of 67 years, Jeanne Samuels; to his children, Marc Samuels and  
3 his wife, Maylee, Maurene Bencal and her husband, Michael, and  
4 Vicki Samuels Levy and her husband, Lawrence; to his grandchildren,  
5 Wendy Waterman, Amy Duke and her husband, Jesse DeMartino, Michael  
6 Duke and his wife, Naomi, Matthew Samuels and his wife, Kristy,  
7 Daniel Waterman, David Duke and his wife, Lan, Benjamin Samuels,  
8 Caroline Samuels, Sam Levy, Rebekah Levy, and Kimberly Bencal; to  
9 his great-grandchildren, Alyssa Campbell, Isabel Duke, Cameron  
10 Samuels, Joseph Duke, and Dylan Samuels; to his brother, Alvin "A.  
11 Pat" Samuels; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be  
12 it further

13         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Joe  
16 Samuels.

S. Davis of Harris  
Miles  
Hochberg

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

H.R. No. 485

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 485 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 3, 2011.

---

Chief Clerk of the House