

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 920

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The city of Goliad lost one of its most beloved civic  
2 leaders with the death of Leonard H. Von Dohlen III on December 21,  
3 2009, at the age of 75; and

4           WHEREAS, Lenny Von Dohlen was born in Palestine on March 24,  
5 1934, to Leonard and Elizabeth Von Dohlen; he attended The  
6 University of Texas at Austin, where he was president of Lambda Chi  
7 Alpha fraternity, and after graduating in 1957, he served in the  
8 U.S. Army, reaching the rank of captain in the military police  
9 corps; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Von Dohlen subsequently began a career in the  
11 automotive business; he worked at the Ford dealership in El Campo  
12 until 1964, when he founded the Von Dohlen Motor Company in Goliad,  
13 which he owned and operated for the next half-century; active in his  
14 profession, he was president of the Ford Dealers Advertising Board  
15 and served on the Ford Dealer Council, and he was a member of both  
16 the Texas and the National Automobile Dealers Associations; he was  
17 also a rancher and the longtime owner of La Bahia Downs racetrack;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, In addition to his professional endeavors, Mr. Von  
20 Dohlen contributed to his community as president of the Goliad  
21 Rotary Club, the Goliad Chamber of Commerce, and the Goliad County  
22 Industrial Foundation; moreover, he chaired the Goliad Sales Tax  
23 Development Board and the Municipal Development District Board,  
24 served as president of the South Texas Race Association and the

1 Racing Board of Texas, and was a member of the Goliad school board  
2 and the Texas State Technical Institute and Bee County College  
3 advisory boards; he further distinguished himself as chair of the  
4 Goliad Savings and Loan; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Von Dohlen belonged to Immaculate Conception  
6 Catholic Church and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre; he remained  
7 passionately loyal to his alma mater and proudly wore burnt orange  
8 and white as a member of the Longhorn Foundation's Big Wheels of  
9 Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Von Dohlen enjoyed the  
11 love and support of his wife, the former Gay Aouelle, as well as  
12 their four children, Lenny, John, Mary, and Catherine; and

13 WHEREAS, Lenny Von Dohlen lived a full and generous life,  
14 giving freely of his time and expertise to benefit his community,  
15 and he leaves behind an exceptional record of service that his loved  
16 ones can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Leonard H. Von  
19 Dohlen III and extend sincere condolences to the members of his  
20 family: to his wife, Gay Von Dohlen; to his children, Lenny Von  
21 Dohlen IV, John David Von Dohlen, Mary Gay Von Dohlen, and Catherine  
22 Martin and her husband, David; to his grandchildren, Kristal Von  
23 Dohlen, Katy Von Dohlen, Hazel Montgomery, and Evan Martin; to his  
24 great-granddaughter, Emry Stakes; to his sister, Jane Horny, and  
25 her husband, Ben; to his brother, Tim Von Dohlen, and his wife, Pat;  
26 and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Leonard H.  
3 Von Dohlen III.