

By: King of Taylor

H.R. No. 1047

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the death of Tom Gordon of Abilene on June 28, 2010, at
3 the age of 97; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Palestine, Mr. Gordon graduated from
5 Palestine High School and earned his undergraduate degree at The
6 University of Texas at Austin; he went on to attend law school at
7 UT, and served as a legal investigator for the state attorney
8 general's office while completing his studies; he was admitted to
9 the Texas Bar in 1937; and

10 WHEREAS, After launching his legal career, he was joined in
11 marriage with the former Frances Lawlis, with whom he would share 70
12 years; Mr. Gordon answered his nation's call to duty during World
13 War II, serving in the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1946; and

14 WHEREAS, Returning to Texas after his military service, he
15 joined the legal staff at Vinson, Elkins, Weems and Francis in
16 Houston and then, in 1950, began his own private practice in
17 Abilene; he was a member of the State Bar of Texas and a life member
18 of the Texas Bar Foundation, and from 1970 to 1971, he was president
19 of the Abilene Bar Association; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Gordon took an active role in public affairs,
21 and in the 1950s he represented Texas at the White House Conference
22 on Aging conducted by President Eisenhower; Governor John Connally
23 appointed him to the State Land Board of Texas in 1967, and he went
24 on to serve as chair of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

1 under five governors; an active member of the Democratic Party, he
2 was a member of the Rules and Order of Business Committee at the
3 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago; and

4 WHEREAS, Well known for his work in the energy industry, he
5 served on the executive, import policy, and natural gas committees
6 of the Independent Petroleum Association of America; for several
7 years, he chaired the Liaison Committee, an umbrella group of state
8 and national independent oil and gas associations; and

9 WHEREAS, This accomplished civic leader likewise devoted
10 much time to community organizations in Abilene, where he was chair
11 of the American Red Cross, Citizens for Better Government, and the
12 city's Civil Service Commission and was president of the Petroleum
13 Club of Abilene and the Abilene Fine Arts Museum board; while
14 heading the Abilene Preservation League in 1984 and 1985, he played
15 a vital role in the creation of the city's Landmarks Commission, the
16 Historic Overlay Ordinance, and the Historic Tax Incentive program;
17 moreover, he was a member of the congregation at St. Paul United
18 Methodist Church, serving on the board of trustees and teaching
19 Sunday school; and

20 WHEREAS, A respected lawyer, a caring family man, and a
21 dedicated public servant, Tom Gordon excelled in each of these
22 roles, and the integrity and generosity of spirit with which he
23 lived his life will continue to inspire all who had the good fortune
24 to know him; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Tom Gordon and
27 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his

1 wife, Frances Lawlis Gordon; to his daughter, Brooke Gordon Cato,
2 and her husband, George; to his granddaughters, Leigh Gordon DuBose
3 and her husband, Nathan, Ann Dowling Bernard and her husband,
4 Tollie, and Maggie Cato and Jay Habayeb; to his
5 great-granddaughters, Kate Bernard and Frances Bernard; to his
6 great-grandsons, Gordon DuBose, Tolbert Bernard, and John DuBose;
7 and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom Gordon.