By: Raymond   H.R. No. 1100

R E S O L U T I O N

1   WHEREAS, The Texas political scene has lost an insightful and
2 articulate voice with the death of legendary journalist Sam Kinch,
3 Jr., of Austin on February 1, 2011; and
4   WHEREAS, A seventh-generation Texan, Sam Kinch was born in
5 Fort Worth on February 18, 1940, to Sam Kinch, Sr., a newspaperman,
6 and Harriet Stokes Kinch, an educator; he grew up in Austin, where
7 he learned to love Texas politics at an early age, thanks in part to
8 the influence of his father, who covered the Capitol for the *Fort*
9 *Worth Star-Telegram*; the young Sam got his first taste of working
10 under the pink dome in 1954, when he served as a page in the Texas
11 House of Representatives during a special session; he graduated
12 from McCallum High School in 1958; and
13   WHEREAS, After serving in the U.S. Army, Mr. Kinch earned
14 both a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in
15 journalism and history from The University of Texas at Austin;
16 along the way, he worked for the *Daily Texan*, covering his first
17 session of the Texas Legislature in 1961 and his first
18 gubernatorial primary in 1962 and later serving as the paper's
19 editor; he also worked part-time and during the summers for
20 newspapers in Austin, Temple, and Fort Worth; and
21   WHEREAS, Mr. Kinch married his high school sweetheart, the
22 former Lilas Janice Shelby, in 1963, and the following year, they
23 moved to Washington, D.C., where Mr. Kinch reported on national
24 politics for the *National Observer*, the *Dallas Times-Herald*, and

1   the *Dallas Morning News*; he and his family returned to Texas in

2   1970, and for the next 15 years he served as the chief state

3   political reporter for the *Morning News*; during that time, he won a

4   number of awards, including one for a story about his ride on a

5   plane that was hijacked to Cuba and another for his book *Texas Under*

6   *a Cloud*, which he coauthored with Ben Proctor, about the Sharpstown

7   investment fraud scandal; and

8   WHEREAS, Building on his experience covering the statehouse,

9   Mr. Kinch founded the newsletter *Texas Weekly* in the mid-1980s with

10 two friends; he was involved with the publication for 14 years

11 before selling his interest in it and entering semiretirement; Mr.

12 Kinch went on to coauthor two more books, *Too Much Is Not Enough*,

13 about state reform of campaign finance laws, and *Crapshoot Justice*,

14 about judicial election reform; and

15   WHEREAS, While he continued writing and consulting

16 part-time, Mr. Kinch also took great pleasure in traveling with his

17 wife, spending time outdoors, and listening to country and gospel

18 music; he especially enjoyed sharing laughs with his loved ones,

19 including his daughter and two sons, of whom he was extremely proud;

20 and

21   WHEREAS, To the end of his life, Sam Kinch remained

22 fascinated by Texas politics and history, and for more than 40

23 years, he informed and entertained the reading public with his

24 passion, intellect, and expertise; now, therefore, be it

25   RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas

26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Sam Kinch, Jr., and

27 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his

1 wife, Lilas Kinch; to his children, Keary Anjanette Kinch, Samuel

2 Sean Kinch, and Ashby McDalton Kinch; to his daughters-in-law, Jill

3 Savola Kinch and Amy Fowler Kinch; to his son-in-law, Tim

4 Evgenides; to his granddaughters, Amani Janice Kinch Alexander,

5 Shelby Auchincloss Kinch, Katherine Victoria Kinch, and Helen

6 Joanna Kinch Evgenides; to his grandsons, Griffin Ashby Kinch and

7 Samuel Rice Kinch; to his sister, Ann Walden, and her husband, Jack;

8 and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

9   RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sam Kinch,

12 Jr.