

By: Bonnen

H.R. No. 1381

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Brazoria County lost a beloved resident and a
2 respected mentor to many with the passing of L. Z. Bryan of Lake
3 Jackson on July 27, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Known simply as "Coach" by players, friends, and
5 family alike, L. Z. Bryan spent his life training, inspiring, and
6 leading high school athletes; and

7 WHEREAS, A 1946 graduate of Milby High School in Houston,
8 L. Z. Bryan played football at the University of Houston and was
9 named to the 1949 All-Gulf Coast Conference Team; he began his
10 coaching career at Galena Park High School, where he served for five
11 years before joining the Brazosport Independent School District;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Coach Bryan spent 12 seasons at Brazosport High
14 School, eventually leaving to become the first football coach at
15 Brazoswood High School in 1969; during his tenure at Brazoswood, he
16 compiled a record of 150-40-4, led nine teams to the state playoffs,
17 and captured the 1974 state 4A football championship; after 18
18 years in the post, he was appointed the district's athletic
19 director; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Bryan's football teams were regarded across
21 the state as tough competitors who were well disciplined and
22 trained; invoking his memory, the 2009 Brazoswood team carried
23 forward the legacy of this remarkable man as players raced onto
24 fields carrying a flag emblazoned with "LZ" and donned helmets with

1 the same; and

2 WHEREAS, In his many football stories, Coach Bryan always
3 emphasized the players more than the outcome of the game; he
4 remembered his athletes long after they were grown and took great
5 pride in their achievements; following his retirement in 1990, he
6 continued his efforts to mold young men into good citizens through
7 his support of the L. Z. Bryan/Flash Walker golf tournament, which
8 raises money for college scholarships; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Bryan was well respected by his peers, who
10 chose him as district coach of the year seven times and elected him
11 president of the Texas High School Coaches Association; moreover,
12 he was inducted into the Texas High School Coaches Hall of Honor in
13 1990 and the Houston Football Coaches Association Hall of Honor in
14 2006; the local community recognized his contributions in 2004 with
15 the dedication of the field house at Hopper Field in his honor; and

16 WHEREAS, Though it is impossible to gauge the full effect of
17 one man's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark on
18 the world as they move through it, and L. Z. Bryan had an enduring
19 influence not only on his players, fellow coaches, family, and
20 friends, but on the entire Brazosport community; now, therefore, be
21 it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
23 Legislature pay tribute to the memory of Coach L. Z. Bryan and
24 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
25 Helen Laura Bryan; to his children, Barbara Anders and her husband,
26 Pinky, Nancy Gilbert and her husband, John, and Larry Bryan and his
27 wife, Cheryl; to his grandchildren, Robin Lapier and her husband,

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1 Jimmie, Holly Ross, Bryan Gilbert and his wife, Julie, Brad Gilbert
2 and his wife, Ashley, Justin Gilbert and his wife, Courtney, Austin
3 Gilbert, Travis Bryan and his wife, Morgan, Tyler Bryan, Andrew
4 Smith, and Mathew Smith; to his great-grandchildren, Scott and
5 Blake Lapier, Chase Ross, Walker, Braden, Grant, and Justin
6 Gilbert; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it
7 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 Coach L. Z.
11 Bryan.