

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 1437

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Jack Autry Bills of Kerrville passed away on January
2 23, 2011, at the age of 84, leaving his circle of family and friends
3 to cherish their many happy memories of time spent in his company;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Jack Bills was born in Graham on November 22, 1926,
6 to John Rush and Clemmie Bills; he was a gifted singer and learned
7 to play the guitar at a young age, and he performed with his
8 brother's band, the Swingsters; raised on a farm, he was intrigued
9 by glimpses of the wider world afforded him in his history books at
10 Graham High School, and he hitchhiked to Lubbock to enroll at Texas
11 Tech University after graduating; and

12 WHEREAS, Interrupting his studies to answer his nation's call
13 to duty, Mr. Bills served as an aviation electronics technician
14 mate in the U.S. Navy during World War II; he later returned to
15 Texas Tech, where he earned a degree in petroleum engineering;
16 along the way, he married his high school sweetheart, the former
17 Betty Ruth Butler; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Bills began his career working in West Texas for
19 Carr Geophysical; he subsequently joined the Mene Grande Oil
20 Company, serving from 1954 to 1965 in San Tome, Venezuela, and went
21 on to work for Gulf Oil and Conquest Petroleum in such exotic
22 locations as Bolivia, Kuwait, Zaire, and Suriname; during those
23 years, Mr. Bills and his family lived an eventful life, fishing the
24 Orinoco River, climbing the Andes Mountains, visiting the ruins of

1 Persepolis, and boating down the Nile, among many other adventures;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Retiring to Kerrville in 1984, Mr. Bills continued
4 his energetic pace; he was a member of the Rotary Club, earning
5 distinction as a Paul Harris Fellow, and he donated his time as a
6 mentor at Kerrville elementary schools; a man of faith, he was
7 active in men's Bible study and the 21st Century Sunday School Class
8 at the First United Methodist Church, and he enjoyed playing bridge
9 and golf and participating in a supper club; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Bills often "just happened to have his guitar"
11 with him, and he and his wife would sing together at gatherings of
12 their friends; moreover, he was a member of his church choir and
13 served as song leader for the 21st Century Class; and

14 WHEREAS, Jack Bills lived a life rich in experiences and
15 accomplishments, and although he is deeply missed, he leaves behind
16 a legacy of generosity, engagement, and *joie de vivre* that will
17 continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Jack Autry Bills and
21 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife
22 of 64 years, Betty Ruth Bills; to his children, Sharon Curry and her
23 husband, Bruce, Richard Bills and his wife, Nancy, and Kathryn
24 Albright and her husband, Jon; to his grandchildren, Rebecca Lewis
25 and her husband, Eddie, David Curry and his wife, Karen, Sarah
26 Daniels and her husband, Otis, Nathan Bills and his wife, Nicole,
27 Rachel Albright, and Madeline Albright; to his

1 great-grandchildren, Zack Curry, Dylan Daniels, and Austin and
2 Katharine Bills; to his sisters, Dorothy Ligon and Mary Glyn Mayes
3 and her husband, Neal; and to his other relatives and friends; and,
4 be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
7 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jack Autry
8 Bills.