

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 1805

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Padre Island lost a beloved neighbor  
2 and friend with the death of Michael James Ellis on January 28,  
3 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Mike Ellis was born on March 5, 1952, in Fairfield,  
5 Illinois, to Thomas James Ellis and Phyllis Brock Streeter; raised  
6 in Texas, he graduated in 1970 from Richardson High School, and in  
7 1978, he earned his bachelor's degree in political science from the  
8 University of Houston, where he was president of Sigma Chi  
9 fraternity; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Ellis subsequently embarked on a career in  
11 public service; he worked as a legislative aide to State  
12 Representative Chase Untermeyer and as an employee of the Texas  
13 Department of Emergency Management before joining the Federal  
14 Emergency Management Agency, which he served from 1980 to 1996; and

15 WHEREAS, After leaving FEMA, Mr. Ellis settled on the Gulf  
16 Coast, where he started the *Padre Island Moon*, a biweekly newspaper  
17 with a circulation between 8,000 and 10,000 that covers events and  
18 entertainment in Padre Island, Port Aransas, and Flour Bluff;  
19 although he had published the *Texas Hurricane Almanac* for a few  
20 years in the mid-1980s, he did not have a background in journalism,  
21 and he brought to the endeavor a good-natured spirit of  
22 improvisation; he cut and pasted the layouts himself and sometimes  
23 offered ad space to people who could not afford to pay; he operated  
24 the paper for more than a decade and sold it in 2010; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Ellis further contributed to the region through  
2 his involvement in a number of youth and wildlife organizations; he  
3 delighted in the natural beauty of the island and often spent hours  
4 enjoying the view of the Gulf from the seawall and the beach; in  
5 April 2011, the Corpus Christi City Council voted to name a section  
6 of the beach on Padre Island in his honor; and

7           WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known Mike Ellis will  
8 remember the way he touched their lives with his warmth and  
9 optimism, and he will forever hold a treasured place in their  
10 hearts; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Michael James Ellis  
13 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
14 brothers, Dee Ellis and his wife, Cheryl, and John C. Ellis; to his  
15 niece and nephew, Toni Ellis and Chris Ellis; and to his other  
16 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

17           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Michael  
20 James Ellis.