

By: Madden

H.R. No. 2175

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Plano lost an admired civic leader with  
2 the passing of former mayor James Wyatt Edwards on May 13, 2011, at  
3 the age of 73; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on September 6, 1937, Jim Edwards was the son of  
5 Margaret and Wyatt Edwards; he served two terms as mayor beginning  
6 in 1978 and worked with H. Ross Perot to bring the headquarters of  
7 EDS, JC Penney, and Frito-Lay to Plano; in addition, he played key  
8 roles in the approval of Collin Creek Mall, the extension of the  
9 Dallas North Tollway, and the securing of funds for the Bush  
10 Tollway; he was the first chair of the Dallas Area Rapid Transit  
11 board and was a founding board member of the Collin County Community  
12 College District; moreover, he served as director of external  
13 relations for the nonprofit organization Heart of a Champion and  
14 held numerous other leadership roles; his most recent initiative,  
15 the "Changing Hearts Project," benefited combat veterans and their  
16 families; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Edwards enjoyed a long career in higher  
18 education administration; early in his career, he headed the  
19 accounting department at Texas Christian University, and he went on  
20 to become executive vice president of Dallas Baptist University,  
21 head of the MBA program at Southern Methodist University, and  
22 president and chancellor of William Carey College in Hattiesburg,  
23 Mississippi; he was active in politics as well, working on the  
24 George W. Bush campaign in 2000 and the Mike Huckabee campaign in

1 2008, and he was a delegate to the 2008 Republican National  
2 Convention; and

3 WHEREAS, Jim Edwards was dedicated to the betterment of his  
4 community, and although he will be deeply missed, he leaves behind a  
5 legacy of achievement that his loved ones can remember with pride;  
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of James Wyatt Edwards  
9 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
10 wife of 52 years, Imogene Edwards; to his children, Randy Edwards  
11 and his wife, Leah, Jamye Ferguson and her husband, Lee, and Allison  
12 Travis and her husband, Mike; to his six grandchildren, Daniel,  
13 Abby, and Sarah Ferguson, Audrey and Natalie Edwards, and Grace  
14 Travis; to his sister, Janice Knox, and her husband, Sandy; to his  
15 brother, Pat Edwards, and his wife, Nancy; to his 15 nieces and  
16 nephews; and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it  
17 further

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