

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 2357

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Admired newspaperman, philanthropist, and civic  
2 leader Edward H. Harte passed away on May 18, 2011, at the age of 88;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Pilot Grove, Missouri, Ed Harte was raised  
5 in San Angelo and learned the newspaper business from the ground up  
6 at the *San Angelo Standard-Times*, which had been purchased by his  
7 father in 1920; Mr. Harte began working as a switchboard operator  
8 and earned his stripes as a reporter before rising through the  
9 newsroom ranks to become publisher of the *Corpus Christi*  
10 *Caller-Times* in 1962; a brilliant journalist and student of Mexican  
11 politics, he created a popular Sunday column providing unique  
12 insights into current events in Mexico and continued to write it  
13 even after his retirement in 1987; Mr. Harte helped build his  
14 family's media empire and served on the board of Harte-Hanks  
15 Communications until 1997, when the company sold all its newspapers  
16 to focus on its other businesses; and

17           WHEREAS, Mr. Harte was also a pioneer in environmental  
18 conservation; he served on a committee that developed the first  
19 municipal regulations setting limits on oil and gas drilling in  
20 Corpus Christi Bay, which later became a model for state and federal  
21 standards, and he was a powerful advocate for the establishment of  
22 Mustang Island State Park and Padre Island National Seashore; a  
23 member of the National Audubon Society board and a former chair, he  
24 received the organization's highest award, the Audubon Medal; he

1 joined with his brother, Houston, to donate their 66,000-acre ranch  
2 to the Nature Conservancy, and the land was subsequently added to  
3 Big Bend National Park; and

4 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mr. Harte and his wife, Janet,  
5 made numerous anonymous donations to worthy causes, focusing on the  
6 environment, the arts, education, women's health care, and the  
7 homeless; it was revealed in 1998 that the couple had given at least  
8 \$20 million to such causes, including a \$1 million challenge grant  
9 to Corpus Christi Metro Ministries to avert the closing of two  
10 shelters, along with generous support for a library in Flour Bluff  
11 and a performing arts center at Texas A&M University-Corpus  
12 Christi; with characteristic vision, Mr. Harte donated \$46 million  
13 in 2000 to establish the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico  
14 Studies at TAMU-Corpus Christi; its researchers have made vital  
15 contributions to marine science and have played an important,  
16 ongoing role in the response to the massive 2010 BP oil spill; when  
17 the Naval Air Station and Corpus Christi Army Depot were threatened  
18 with closure, Mr. Harte used his considerable influence to keep  
19 them open; and

20 WHEREAS, Ed Harte left an extraordinary legacy for the people  
21 of Corpus Christi, the Lone Star State, the Gulf Coast, and beyond;  
22 although this kind, witty, and unassuming man will be deeply missed  
23 by all who were fortunate enough to know him, his tremendous  
24 devotion to environmental and charitable causes will continue to  
25 resonate in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Edward H. Harte and

1 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
2 children, Christopher Harte, William Harte, Elizabeth Owens, and  
3 Julia Widdowson; to his brother, Houston Harte; to his nine  
4 grandchildren, his great-grandchild, and his two  
5 step-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be  
6 it further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Edward H.  
10 Harte.