

By: Branch

H.R. No. 2474

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, May 27, 2011, marks the 50th anniversary of the  
2 election of John Tower as the Lone Star State's first Republican  
3 United States senator since Reconstruction; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Houston on September 29, 1925, John Goodwin  
5 Tower became active in the Republican Party when he was an assistant  
6 professor of political science at Midwestern University; he served  
7 as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1956, and in  
8 1960 his party nominated him to run for the U.S. Senate; and

9 WHEREAS, When Lyndon B. Johnson resigned from the senate to  
10 assume the vice presidency, Senator Tower won the seat in a special  
11 election on May 27, 1961; many hailed this event as heralding the  
12 advent of two-party politics in Texas; Senator Tower was reelected  
13 three times, and over the course of his 24-year career in Congress,  
14 he wielded enormous influence in a variety of domestic and foreign  
15 policy issues, particularly through his service on powerful banking  
16 committees and on the Senate Armed Services Committee; moreover, he  
17 took a leadership role in Republican politics at the state and  
18 national level; after retiring from the U.S. Senate in 1985, he went  
19 on to serve as the nation's chief negotiator at the Strategic Arms  
20 Reduction Talks in Geneva, and he led the group known as the Tower  
21 Commission in an investigation of the Iran-Contra affair; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator John Tower perished in a commuter plane  
23 crash in 1991, but his accomplishments have resonated through the  
24 years, and his election to the U.S. Senate continues to be regarded

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1 as a turning point in the political history of Texas; now,  
2 therefore, be it

3           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
4 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of John Tower's  
5 election to the United States Senate.