

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 624

In Memory
of
The Honorable Donley C. Kennard

WHEREAS, Our former colleague Senator Don Kennard passed away in Austin on March 17, 2011, and we are saddened to lose him and his mischievous smile; we are warmed, however, by the opportunity to memorialize him for the proud legacy he leaves behind to the people of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Donley C. Kennard was born on May 6, 1929, in Houston; at the age of 13, he moved with his family to Fort Worth and became a star football player at Arlington Heights High School; he attended the University of North Texas and Texas Christian University and earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin; he went on to become a longtime Texas lawmaker and a nationally known conservationist; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kennard was inspired to seek public service while still a young man; in 1952, during his senior year at The University of Texas, he ran for election to the Texas House of Representatives and won his seat; at the time, he declared to the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, "I want to go to Austin to represent all the people, not just the few"; and

WHEREAS, He served in the House for 10 years, from 1953 to 1963, and became known as a dedicated and respected voice for education and as a strong advocate for the preservation of our state's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, the voters of Tarrant County elected him to the Texas Senate, where he served with distinction for another 10 years on behalf of the people of District 10; he was elected president pro tempore by his colleagues in 1969 for the Regular Session of the 61st Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, His reputation as a warrior for education was solidified with his filibuster of 29 hours and 22 minutes in the Senate Chamber, which resulted in the votes needed to pass the measure that elevated Arlington State College to the four-year institution that became The University of Texas at Arlington; and

WHEREAS, His passion for our natural resources was demonstrated by the courageous and successful crusade he led in 1971 to pass a tax bill that secured funding to maintain state parks for the people of Texas; it was a crusade that ultimately led to his reelection defeat; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the Senate, "by popular demand," as he liked to say, he established and served as the director of The Natural Areas Surveys with the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs; the extensive reports from these studies ultimately led to the preservation of Enchanted Rock and several other natural Texas sites; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kennard appropriately will be laid to rest in the Texas State Cemetery on Saturday, March 26, alongside a host of giants of Texas history that form a prominent path back to the days of Stephen F. Austin; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby express gratitude, admiration, and affection for the Honorable Don Kennard and pay tribute to his dedicated service and historic contributions toward the betterment of his beloved state and its people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in his honor, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in honor and in memory of the Honorable Don Kennard.

		Harris
Birdwell	Hegar	Seliger
Carona	Hinojosa	Shapiro
Davis	Huffman	Uresti
Deuell	Jackson	Van de Putte
Duncan	Lucio	Watson
Ellis	Nelson	Wentworth
Eltife	Nichols	West
Estes	Ogden	Whitmire
Fraser	Patrick	Williams
Gallegos	Rodriguez	Zaffirini

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 24, 2011, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate