

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 723

In Memory  
of  
William Marcus Gosdin

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of longtime director of park services for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department William Marcus Gosdin, who died March 19, 2011, at the age of 92; and

**WHEREAS**, William Marcus Gosdin was born March 28, 1918, in Leesburg, Texas; he persevered despite the loss of his father at the age of nine and began working his way through college after graduating from high school; he married Leah McWhorter in 1940, and the couple raised three children and enjoyed 43 years of marriage before her death in 1984; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gosdin enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps at the outbreak of World War II and served with distinction at various posts, including Fort Lewis and Bryan Army Air Field; and

**WHEREAS**, Following the war, he determined to complete his education and re-entered Texas Tech University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees; he went on to serve on the faculty of the Horticulture and Park Administration Department and to direct a study on Texas state parks commissioned by the administration of Governor John Connally; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1964, he was selected to become director of park services for the newly created Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; under his leadership, the state more than doubled its park acreage, and he played an important role in such initiatives as the \$75 million Park Development Bond Program and the Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gosdin personally supervised the development of the Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site under the watchful eye of President Johnson and left a personal imprint on many other parks; he was given the Pugsley Award in 1968, one of the nation's most prestigious honors in the fields of conservation, parks, and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gosdin was active in the Boy Scouts program for many years, serving as a scoutmaster and leading groups of Explorer Scouts in outdoor activities; he was awarded the Silver Beaver, one of scouting's highest honors; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gosdin married Martha S. "Tana" Spivey in 1986, and they lived in New Mexico for the next 20 years and traveled extensively; they returned to Austin in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of courage, strength, and compassion, Mr. Gosdin gave generously to others, and his wisdom, his love of the outdoors, and his commitment to Texas parks will not be forgotten; and

**WHEREAS**, He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

S.R. No. 723

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of William Marcus Gosdin: his wife, Tana; his children, John Mark, Gary, and Cherie; his stepson, Jay Spivey; and his six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William Marcus Gosdin.

Watson

---

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 6, 2011, by a rising vote.

---

Secretary of the Senate

---

Member, Texas Senate