

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 60

In Memory
of
Robert Lewis Hardesty

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Robert Lewis Hardesty, who died July 8, 2013, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Robert Hardesty served his state and nation with dedication and distinction; over the course of his longtime career, he excelled as a journalist, a presidential speechwriter, and a university president; and

WHEREAS, Robert Lewis Hardesty was born June 4, 1931, in Saint Louis, Missouri; he graduated from George Washington University and served in the United States Army; after his military service, he was a reporter and columnist for the *Army Times*; and

WHEREAS, He went on to serve as the speechwriter for Postmaster General John Gronouski, and after having been recognized for authoring many of the best speeches written during the 1964 presidential campaign, he was hired by President Lyndon Baines Johnson as the president's speechwriter and aide; and

WHEREAS, He served in the White House until the end of the Johnson administration and then moved to Austin to help the president write his memoir, *The Vantage Point: Perspectives of the Presidency, 1963-1969*; he also became press secretary and special assistant to Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, with whom he worked for three years; and

WHEREAS, He then served as vice chancellor for governmental affairs for The University of Texas System, and during his tenure, he was appointed by President Gerald Ford to fill a vacancy on the United States Postal Service Board of Governors; he served three terms as the board's chair and played an important role in bringing political and fiscal stability to the organization; he was the recipient of the Benjamin Franklin Award, the highest honor bestowed by the postal service; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, he was named president of Southwest Texas State University; under his exceptional leadership, sweeping academic reforms were initiated, a state-of-the-art library was constructed, and enrollment increased from 13,000 to 20,000; during his seven-year tenure, the university's permanent endowment grew from \$400,000 to \$7 million; and

WHEREAS, A man of courage, determination, and strength, he gave generously to others, and his many talents, his remarkable eloquence, and his wry sense of humor 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 countless friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Robert Lewis Hardesty; and, be it further

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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 Robert L. Hardesty.

Watson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 19, 2013, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate