

By: Branch

H.C.R. No. 1

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, John Goodwin Tower greatly benefited his state and  
2 his nation through his dedicated public service, including nearly a  
3 quarter-century in the United States Senate; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Houston on September 29, 1925, John Tower  
5 served in the United States Navy during World War II on an  
6 amphibious gunboat in the Pacific; he was discharged as a seaman  
7 first class and remained active in the naval reserve until 1989,  
8 when he retired with the rank of master chief boatswain's mate; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Tower earned a bachelor's degree in  
10 political science at Southwestern University and a master's degree  
11 in the same discipline at Southern Methodist University; he  
12 accepted a position as an assistant professor at Midwestern  
13 University in the early 1950s and continued his studies at the  
14 London School of Economics; and

15 WHEREAS, He soon became a rising star in conservative  
16 politics, and in 1960, he was elected as the first Republican  
17 senator from Texas since Reconstruction; Senator Tower took on  
18 numerous committee assignments in Washington and played a key role  
19 in the modernization and expansion of the military as chair of the  
20 Armed Services Committee and as a member of the Joint Committee on  
21 Defense Production; he also served on the Labor and Public Welfare  
22 and Banking and Currency Committees, among many others; he was  
23 known for his skill at guiding legislation through Congress, and he  
24 sought to stimulate economic growth, increase small business

1 opportunities, improve transportation systems, and encourage  
2 strong financial institutions; working diligently in behalf of his  
3 fellow Texans, he promoted agriculture as well as the energy,  
4 fishing, and maritime industries; and

5 WHEREAS, After retiring from Congress in 1985, Senator Tower  
6 served as President Ronald Reagan's strategic arms negotiator in  
7 Geneva, and he further assisted the president by advocating for  
8 ratification of a medium-range nuclear weapons treaty with the  
9 Soviet Union; in late 1986, President Reagan appointed him as chair  
10 of the special review board assigned to investigate the Iran-contra  
11 scandals; and

12 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan established a consulting company  
13 in Dallas that served some of the nation's largest weapons  
14 manufacturers, and from 1986 to 1988, he taught political science  
15 as a distinguished lecturer at Southern Methodist University; in  
16 1990, President Bush named him chair of the President's Foreign  
17 Intelligence Advisory Board; tragically, he died in a plane crash  
18 the following year; and

19 WHEREAS, Through his leadership in national security and  
20 foreign policy issues, John Tower made vital contributions to the  
21 United States, and his tireless efforts to advance the interests of  
22 the Lone Star State earned the lasting appreciation of his fellow  
23 Texans; naming the State Insurance Building Annex in the Capitol  
24 Complex in his honor would provide a most fitting tribute to his  
25 outstanding accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas  
27 hereby direct the Texas Facilities Commission to rename the State

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1 Insurance Building Annex the John G. Tower State Office Building as  
2 a lasting tribute to this esteemed Texan; and, be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official  
4 copy of this resolution to the chair and executive director of the  
5 Texas Facilities Commission.