

By: Branch

H.C.R. No. 73

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.