

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 38

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The City of Arlington and the State of Texas lost a
2 distinguished native son with the death of former mayor Harold
3 E. Patterson, who passed away on March 20, 2009, at the age of 79;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born on March 27, 1929, to William T. and Mary
6 J. Patterson, Harold Patterson was the youngest of 14 children; he
7 served his country in the United States Marine Corps for two years
8 and went on to preside over four different Arlington banks; and

9 WHEREAS, Eager to give back to his community, Mr. Patterson
10 made public service a priority throughout his life; he served as a
11 member of the Arlington Parks and Recreation Board and the
12 education advisory board of the Arlington Independent School
13 District, and he was president of the Arlington Boys Club, the
14 Arlington Chamber of Commerce, and the local Lions Club; in
15 addition, he held a seat on the board of directors of Arlington
16 Community Hospital; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson was first elected to the Arlington
18 City Council in 1966, and he became mayor pro tempore 11 years after
19 that; he was elected mayor in 1983 and served two terms, overseeing
20 Arlington at a time of tremendous growth; during his
21 administration, the city began fluoridating its water, greatly
22 expanded its transportation infrastructure, and earned its first AA
23 bond rating; and

24 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Patterson was honored by many

1 area organizations for his leadership, and a sports complex in
2 South Arlington was named for him; after serving as mayor, he
3 started his own property tax consulting business, and later he won a
4 position on the Tarrant Appraisal District Board; he never once
5 lost an election; and

6 WHEREAS, A man of faith, Mr. Patterson was a longtime member
7 of the First Baptist Church of Arlington; he and his wife, Frances,
8 shared a devoted marriage of 60 years and became the proud parents
9 of two children, Michael and Teresa; his life was further blessed
10 with a daughter-in-law, Debi, a son-in-law, Steve, six
11 grandchildren, Ryan, Josh, Tyler, Travis, Chase, and Tiffany, and a
12 great-grandchild, Hannah; and

13 WHEREAS, Through his enduring dedication to Arlington and its
14 citizens, Harold Patterson made a lasting, positive difference, and
15 he will long be remembered with admiration and affection; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Harold E. Patterson
19 and his exemplary record of service to the people of Arlington.