

By: Gooden

H.R. No. 99

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, David Campbell of Athens has been chosen as a 2013
2 inductee into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Campbell began working with the Texas Parks and
4 Wildlife Department in 1965 as a fish hatchery assistant in
5 Lewisville; after becoming manager of the Tyler Fish Hatchery in
6 1973, he traveled to Florida to collect largemouth bass to breed and
7 stock in public reservoirs, a move that elevated the state's trophy
8 fishing reputation and earned him the nickname "Godfather of Big
9 Bass"; and

10 WHEREAS, TPWD gained national attention when the largest bass
11 on record, weighing 17.67 pounds, was caught at Lake Fork in
12 Northeast Texas and soon after developed an infection; for an
13 entire month, Mr. Campbell nursed the fish, named Ethel, back to
14 health, while thousands followed her progress in the media; he
15 subsequently helped facilitate her safe transport to Springfield,
16 Missouri, to the first, and then only, Bass Pro Shop, where her
17 presence attracted countless visitors; to thank TPWD for the
18 increase in business, Johnny Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops,
19 donated funds for the construction of the Richard M. Hart and Johnny
20 Morris Conservation Center at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries
21 Center; and

22 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Campbell raised and
23 stocked millions of fish, including channel catfish, northern pike,
24 and crappie, among many others; he also oversaw the Toyota

1 ShareLunker program, which encourages anglers to donate or loan
2 their 13-pound or larger bass to TPWD for spawning purposes to
3 increase the size and growth rate of largemouth bass in Texas public
4 waters; Mr. Campbell initiated the program in 1986 and continued
5 overseeing it until his retirement from the Texas Freshwater
6 Fisheries Center in Athens in 2012; and

7 WHEREAS, Through his research and dedication to the
8 advancement of trophy bass fishing, Mr. Campbell helped TPWD gather
9 the largest collection of data on big bass in the world; in
10 addition, he pioneered new procedures for caring for big fish and
11 helped popularize catch-and-release conservation; he was elected
12 into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, David Campbell's dedication to the care and
14 management of fish in Texas waters has earned him the respect and
15 admiration of anglers and outdoor writers across the state and
16 beyond, and it is indeed fitting to recognize his contributions to
17 the freshwater sport-fishing industry; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
19 Legislature hereby congratulate David Campbell on his induction
20 into the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame and extend to him
21 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Mr. Campbell as an expression of high regard by the
24 Texas House of Representatives.