

By: Thompson of Harris

H.R. No. 266

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Michael Whitney McKinney served the Lone Star State
2 and its business community with the utmost distinction, and his
3 passing on February 15, 2012, brought an immeasurable loss to all
4 who were fortunate enough to know him; and

5 WHEREAS, A San Angelo native, Mike McKinney earned his
6 bachelor's degree in government from The University of Texas at
7 Austin; in 1968, he began his career in public service working for
8 Preston Smith, first in the office of the lieutenant governor and
9 later as Governor Smith's special assistant and appointments
10 secretary; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. McKinney went on to make further invaluable
12 contributions to the state as assistant to the executive director
13 of the Texas Water Quality Board and then as assistant
14 administrator of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission; he became
15 vice president of industry affairs for the Wholesale Beer
16 Distributors of Texas in 1984, and he was named its chief executive
17 officer five years later; he led WBDT with enormous skill and energy
18 for more than two decades, and he spent so much time observing the
19 floor activities of the Texas House of Representatives that a chair
20 in the gallery came to be regarded as his; and

21 WHEREAS, Such publications as the *Quorum Report* and *Capitol*
22 *Inside* recognized Mr. McKinney's diligence and effectiveness, and
23 in 1996, the TABC presented him with its Bert Ford Commendation;
24 moreover, he received both the Presidential Award for Legislative

1 Excellence and the President's Industry Service Award from the
2 National Beer Wholesalers Association; and

3 WHEREAS, Dedicated to preserving our state's rich heritage,
4 Mr. McKinney served on the board of the Bob Bullock Texas State
5 History Museum Foundation, including as its president from 2005 to
6 2006, and he was a member of the State Cemetery Board and the board
7 of Friends of the Governor's Mansion; he actively supported
8 improvements to the mansion as a member of the Sam Houston Society
9 as well; and

10 WHEREAS, For years during legislative sessions, Mike
11 McKinney was a near-constant presence in his favorite chair in the
12 house gallery, and it is appropriate to pay special tribute to him
13 with the installation of an engraved plaque on that chair; in
14 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 443, Government Code, the
15 State Preservation Board is charged with approving all changes to
16 the Capitol and its contents; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
18 Legislature hereby direct the State Preservation Board to install a
19 plaque that is engraved with the words "In memory of Michael
20 W. McKinney, a great Texan and protector of the Code and
21 Constitution" on the specific house gallery chair long occupied by
22 Mr. McKinney; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk of the house forward an
24 official copy of this resolution to the executive director and
25 members of the State Preservation Board.