

By: Darby

H.R. No. 723

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of Robert Leonadis McKinney, Jr., of Big Lake on June 15,
3 2011, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Big Lake on July 9, 1923, R. L. McKinney was
5 the son of Lonnie and Nilla Coates McKinney; he was descended from
6 Mordecai McKinney, who was born on the Isle of Skye in Scotland in
7 1685 and emigrated to New Jersey; his other ancestors included
8 Collin McKinney, one of the five men who drafted the Texas
9 Declaration of Independence at the Convention of 1836 and a member
10 of the committee that drafted the constitution of the Republic of
11 Texas; this forebear was the namesake of both Collin County and its
12 county seat, McKinney, and the pen he used to sign the declaration
13 remains in the family; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. McKinney began helping to support his family at
15 the age of seven, following the untimely death of his father; he
16 sold newspapers and theater popcorn, and after graduating from
17 Reagan County High School, he turned down a scholarship to Texas
18 Tech University in order to work on the family ranch; with his
19 savings and a \$400 loan from the bank, he purchased 140 breeding
20 ewes; his agricultural employment qualified him for a deferment
21 during World War II, but he chose to join the United States Navy and
22 served as a radio operator on the U.S.S. *Prometheus* in the Pacific
23 theater; and

24 WHEREAS, When he returned from the war, Mr. McKinney married

1 the love of his life, the former Mary Evelyn Stout; they became the
2 proud parents of three children, Pete, Cheryl, and Lorri, and
3 through the years, Mr. McKinney knew the joy of welcoming six
4 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; and

5 WHEREAS, A respected member of his community, Mr. McKinney
6 owned and operated S & S 66 and Southwest Fuel Company for more than
7 three decades; he was a caring mentor to numerous young men who
8 worked for him in the summers, and many of them wrote to express
9 their appreciation for the lessons he taught regarding the value of
10 hard work and responsibility; and

11 WHEREAS, This civic-minded Texan was a member of the Lions
12 Club, the chamber of commerce, the American Legion, and the First
13 Methodist Church; he was also a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge
14 and a charter member of the Big Lake Golf Association, where he
15 enjoyed playing rounds with his golf buddies; his formal accolades
16 included selection as Retail Business Member of the Year by the
17 chamber, and through his kindness and friendship toward all, he
18 earned the nickname "the Prince of Reagan County"; and

19 WHEREAS, R. L. McKinney enriched the lives of all who were
20 fortunate enough to know him, and although he is deeply missed,
21 memories of his warmth and generosity will forever remain a source
22 of inspiration to his loved ones; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Robert Leonadis
25 McKinney, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
26 family: to his wife, Evelyn Stout McKinney; to his children, Robert
27 Leonadis "Pete" McKinney III and his wife, Patrice, Cheryl

1 deCordova and her husband, Aubrey, and Lorri Jenkins and her
2 husband, Mike; to his grandchildren, Rachel Beaver and her husband,
3 Jonathan, Robert Leonadis McKinney IV and his wife, Angie, Scott
4 Jenkins, Kayla Jenkins, Emily deCordova, and Clay deCordova and his
5 wife, Shelia; to his five great-grandchildren; and to his many
6 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
10 R. L. McKinney.