

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 973

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Tommy Cantrell, a longtime coach and teacher in the
2 Arlington Independent School District, passed away on August 5,
3 2012, at the age of 76, leaving his loved ones to reflect on a life
4 that was rich in meaningful accomplishments; and

5 WHEREAS, Tommy Cantrell was born on June 10, 1936, in Fort
6 Worth to J. M. and Ethelda Cantrell; he graduated in 1954 from North
7 Side High School, where he was a Golden Gloves boxer and three-sport
8 letterman; he accepted a football scholarship to Texas A&M
9 University and, as a freshman, played for legendary Coach Paul
10 "Bear" Bryant; in 1956, he signed to play professional baseball for
11 the Baltimore Orioles and spent five years in the minor leagues
12 before returning to college at Texas Christian University, and he
13 ultimately earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the
14 university; and

15 WHEREAS, After completing his undergraduate studies in 1962,
16 he went to work for the Fort Worth Independent School District,
17 initially teaching and coaching at Trimble Technical High School
18 and then becoming head baseball coach at O. D. Wyatt High School; in
19 1969, he was hired as the head baseball coach at Sam Houston High
20 School in Arlington, beginning his association with the Texans;
21 over the course of the next 26 years, his skillful guidance helped
22 the team collect 11 district and 8 bi-district titles and earned him
23 Coach of the Year honors on nine occasions; this dedicated mentor
24 was masterful at teaching the fundamentals of the game and had a

1 positive and lasting influence on his players, 10 of whom went on to
2 become coaches at the high school, college, or professional level;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Following his retirement in 1994, Coach Cantrell
5 worked for American Airlines and used his leisure time to travel and
6 visit with family and friends; in all of his endeavors, he enjoyed
7 the love and support of his wife, Sharon, with whom he shared 49
8 rewarding years of marriage, and he took great pride in his son,
9 Clark, and his daughter, Shelley; and

10 WHEREAS, With his expertise and leadership, Tommy Cantrell
11 helped hundreds of students to excel both on and off the field, and
12 he will be a continuing source of inspiration to all those who had
13 the good fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Tommy Cantrell and
16 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
17 Sharon Cantrell; to his son, Clark Cantrell; to his daughter,
18 Shelley Cantrell; to his grandson, Chris Cantrell; and to his other
19 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tommy
23 Cantrell.