

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 975

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Arlington lost an admired civic leader
2 with the passing of former council member Franklin Eugene Patrick
3 on September 8, 2012, at the age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Vertis and Martha Patrick, Gene Patrick
5 was born in Cleburne on July 16, 1940; he moved to Arlington at the
6 age of 11 and graduated from Arlington High School before going on
7 to attend The University of Texas at Arlington; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Patrick found employment with the Great
9 Southwest Corporation after college and was a member of the
10 original Six Flags Over Texas staff; this marked the beginning of a
11 distinguished 30-year career as a creative executive for theme
12 parks and entertainment venues around the world; known for his
13 expertise in design, costuming, and animation, he rose to become
14 vice president of Marriott's Great America parks before his
15 retirement in 1985; he subsequently moved back to Arlington and
16 founded his own companies, GP Show Productions and Showtek
17 Corporation; his client list included Six Flags AstroWorld in
18 Houston, the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Hershey's
19 Chocolate World in Pennsylvania, and an indoor theme park in China;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, For more than a quarter-century, Mr. Patrick was
22 highly engaged in civic life, focusing particularly on downtown
23 revitalization and the arts; he served three terms on the Arlington
24 Planning and Zoning Commission and was president of the original

1 Downtown Arlington, Inc., as well as a member of the Downtown
2 Arlington Revitalization Committee; in 2003, he was elected to the
3 first of five terms on the city council, a position that allowed him
4 to work even harder for the betterment of Arlington; although
5 health issues obliged him to resign in November 2011, he continued
6 to follow matters of concern to the city and generously shared his
7 knowledge with others; and

8 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan further served his community
9 through the years as a Rotarian and as a member of the boards of the
10 chamber of commerce, the Chamber Foundation, the Arlington
11 Community Band, Theatre Arlington, the Arlington Museum of Art, and
12 the American Heart Association; moreover, he served on the UTA
13 Development Board and the UTA Liberal Arts Board; in 1999, he and
14 his wife, Penny, purchased the former Chamber of Commerce building
15 to aid the chamber's expansion into a new office complex and donated
16 use of the building to Theatre Arlington for its administrative
17 offices and education center; and

18 WHEREAS, A man of great faith, Mr. Patrick was a valued
19 member of First United Methodist Church for over 50 years and served
20 as board trustee chair; he played trumpet in the band and orchestra,
21 sang in the choir, and arranged the music for many church concerts
22 and holiday events; and

23 WHEREAS, Gene Patrick made a lasting, positive difference in
24 Arlington through his vision and selfless commitment, and although
25 he is deeply missed, his love for his community will continue to
26 inspire his fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Franklin Eugene
2 Patrick and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
3 family: to his wife, Penny Jo Patrick; to his six children and four
4 grandchildren; and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be
5 it further

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