

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost an accomplished native son
2 with the passing of the Honorable Richard C. Slack of Pecos, a man
3 who retired as Dean of the Texas House after 28 years of outstanding
4 service only to later share his leadership again to the benefit of
5 all as a member of the Texas Ethics Commission for more than a
6 decade; and

7 WHEREAS, The grandson of Henry Slack, one of the contestants
8 in the world's first rodeo, held in Pecos, Dick Slack was also a
9 trailblazer; he was born on December 20, 1914, to Ruby Stephens and
10 Henry Clay Slack, Jr., and as a young man earned his bachelor's
11 degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University; he
12 returned to his hometown and worked as a roughneck before
13 purchasing the Magnolia Oil distributorship there, and in 1940, he
14 joined the U.S. Army as a member of the Texas 36th Division; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Slack saw combat during World War II, on
16 deployments to North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany, and he was
17 awarded the Bronze Star for valor for his courageous actions during
18 an artillery exchange in Italy in 1944; after the war, he joined the
19 Texas National Guard and helped organize and lead the 124th Cavalry
20 Recon Squadron headquartered in Pecos, and in 1965, he entered the
21 Retired Reserve with the rank of colonel; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Slack began his career in public service in
23 1948, when he was elected to the first of two terms as county judge
24 of Reeves County; he successfully ran for state representative in

1 1952 and soon became known among his fellow legislators for his dry
2 wit, his intelligence, and his independent conservative thinking;
3 juggling the demands of his new role with his professional
4 responsibilities, he added law school to his priorities, and
5 following graduation from St. Mary's, he was admitted to the state
6 bar in 1956; he was chosen as speaker pro tem for the 64th and 65th
7 Legislative Sessions, and he was recognized as Dean of the House
8 during his last years in office; along the way, he served on more
9 than 35 committees, chairing many, and he helped to establish The
10 University of Texas of the Permian Basin and the Texas Tech
11 University Health Sciences Center in Odessa; and

12 WHEREAS, A leader in business and civic life as well, Mr.
13 Slack was the founder of Presidio Bank and a member of the board of
14 directors of the First National Bank of Pecos and the Red Bluff
15 Water Power Control District; he returned to statewide service in
16 1992 with his appointment to the Texas Ethics Commission, which he
17 served on for 11 years and chaired for two of those years before
18 stepping down in 2003; and

19 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan met his wife, the former
20 Charlotte Tonroy, during his freshman year in the house of
21 representatives, where she was a third-year law student working as
22 a legislative clerk; the couple married in August 1953, and through
23 the years, they were blessed with three children, Anne, Clay, and
24 Cynthia; they later delighted in welcoming into their family seven
25 grandchildren and a great-granddaughter; and

26 WHEREAS, Vibrant and engaged, Dick Slack lived life to the
27 fullest, pursuing his love of skeet shooting even in his late

1 nineties, and his penchant for storytelling spoke volumes about the
2 enthusiasm he brought to all his endeavors over the course of nearly
3 a century of purposeful achievement; and

4 WHEREAS, The State of Texas benefited immensely from the
5 vision, initiative, and dedication of Dick Slack, and he leaves
6 behind a record of public service that will continue to inspire
7 others for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable
10 Richard C. Slack and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
11 family: to his wife, Charlotte Tonroy Slack; to his children, Anne
12 Mackey and her husband, Doug, Clay Slack and his wife, Ann, and
13 Cynthia Shaw and her husband, Stan; to his grandchildren, Sarah
14 Faulkner Staley and her husband, Mark, Dugger Faulkner, Trey and
15 Robert Slack, and Margaret, David, and Sara Shaw; to his
16 great-granddaughter, Elizabeth Staley; and to his other relatives
17 and friends; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of former
21 state representative Dick Slack.

Nevarez

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

H.R. No. 2559

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2559 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 24, 2013.

Chief Clerk of the House