

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 2596

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The untimely passing of Andrew Jared Swope of  
2 Amarillo on January 15, 2013, at the age of 27, brought a great loss  
3 to his community and to the many people whose lives were touched by  
4 this remarkable man; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Amarillo on January 29, 1985, A. J. Swope  
6 was the son of Rick and Leslie Swope; he graduated from Pampa High  
7 School and went on to complete his bachelor's degree in mass  
8 communication at West Texas A&M University, where he worked on  
9 multiple broadcast management teams and served as program director  
10 for KWTS, the campus radio station; in addition, he was a thoughtful  
11 mentor to his fellow students and played a key role in the growth of  
12 the school's broadcast program; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Swope began his career at KVII-TV as an on-air  
14 reporter and anchor, and he rose to become assignments editor;  
15 during his tenure, he distinguished himself through his talent,  
16 drive, and leadership; his work on news segments about wind energy  
17 led to a new passion, and he became the first executive director of  
18 Class 4 Winds and Renewables in 2009; in that capacity, he  
19 represented the Panhandle wind industry at the state, national, and  
20 international levels, and he provided educational opportunities  
21 and assistance in coordinating regional resources; reaching out to  
22 a wide variety of individuals and businesses with a stake in the  
23 development of the industry, he helped create common ground where  
24 those with diverse interests could gain knowledge and share ideas,

1 and along the way, he cultivated numerous lasting friendships; and

2       WHEREAS, Musically talented as well, he led the band AJ Swope  
3 and the Last Train Home, which built a strong following among  
4 roots-rock and alternative country fans at venues around the area;  
5 the group released an album, *Hotel St. James*, in 2012; Mr. Swope  
6 wrote songs from the heart, and among his favorites were "Company  
7 Man," written for his dad, and "Autumn Girl," written for his wife;  
8 and

9       WHEREAS, Mr. Swope was devoted to his wife, Wendi, and to his  
10 large extended family; an adventurous outdoorsman, he enjoyed  
11 fly-fishing, hiking, riding trials bikes, surfing, sailing, and  
12 kayaking, and he spent countless hours biking in Palo Duro Canyon  
13 and riding around his neighborhood with his faithful companion,  
14 Simon the Dog, in a cart behind him; and

15       WHEREAS, In May 2013, Sharyland Utilities announced that its  
16 new substation in Potter County will be named the AJ Swope Station  
17 as a memorial to this dynamic Texan; and

18       WHEREAS, Through his warmth, kindness, and quick sense of  
19 humor, A. J. Swope endeared himself to innumerable people across  
20 the state, and his commitment to making a positive difference will  
21 remain a source of inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to  
22 know him; now, therefore, be it

23       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Andrew Jared Swope  
25 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
26 wife, Wendi Swope; to his parents, Rick and Leslie Swope; to his  
27 brother, Dirk Swope, and his wife, Val; to his niece, Peyton Swope;

1 and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

2           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of  
5 A. J. Swope.