

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2690

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Quitman lost an admired public servant
2 with the passing of Mayor Jerry W. Edwards, Sr., on January 4, 2013,
3 at the age of 59; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Alice on September 6, 1953, to Roy and Mary
5 Lou Edwards, Jerry Edwards earned his bachelor's degree at East
6 Texas State University and went on to pursue postgraduate studies
7 in management; in 1982, he moved from Paris, Texas, to Quitman,
8 where he soon became a prominent community leader; and

9 WHEREAS, First elected as an alderman on the Quitman City
10 Council in 1984, Mr. Edwards was a member of city government for
11 more than 20 years, serving several terms as alderman and two years
12 as mayor pro tempore and holding the office of mayor in 1994 and
13 from 2009 until the time of his death; this dedicated official
14 realized a range of important achievements and was particularly
15 effective in increasing public involvement in city governance by
16 creating citizen advisory committees and a communications
17 committee to work with civic groups, churches, and residents; and

18 WHEREAS, Mayor Edwards was the executive director of the
19 Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center for 13 years, devoting
20 himself to the organization's mission of preventing and
21 investigating child abuse and assisting its victims; in addition,
22 he served as president of the Wood County Child Protection Board and
23 was a member of the executive directors committee of the Children's
24 Advocacy Centers of Texas as well as two child fatality review

1 teams; and

2 WHEREAS, This engaged citizen was the founding president of
3 the Quitman/Lake Fork Kiwanis Club and a member of the Quitman
4 Independent School District Board of Trustees; moreover, he served
5 as president of the Wood County Central Hospital District board of
6 directors for two terms and was active in the congregation at Sand
7 Springs Baptist Church in Mineola; over the years, Mayor Edwards
8 received a number of honors for his contributions, including the
9 Quitman Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award and the Wood
10 County Bar Association Liberty Bell Award; and

11 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mayor Edwards enjoyed the love
12 and support of his wife, Laura, and he took great pride in his three
13 children, Jerry, Jim, and Jennifer, and his seven grandchildren;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Through his enduring dedication to Quitman and its
16 citizens and his passionate advocacy in behalf of young Texans,
17 Jerry W. Edwards made a lasting and positive difference in the world
18 around him, and he will long be remembered with great admiration and
19 affection; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Jerry W.
22 Edwards, Sr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
23 family: to his wife, Laura Edwards; to his children, Jerry Edwards,
24 Jim Edwards, and Jennifer Edwards; to his sisters, Darla Hornick
25 and Judy Davis; to his seven grandchildren; and to his other
26 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jerry
3 Edwards.