

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life came to an end with the
2 passing of Loel Dene Cox of Comanche on January 25, 2015, at the age
3 of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, L. D. Cox was born in Sidney on April 12, 1926, to
5 Ottie and Olene Cox; he played football for Sidney High School, and
6 immediately after graduating in 1944, he answered his nation's call
7 to duty and enlisted in the U.S. Navy; and

8 WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Cox served as a Seaman 1st
9 Class on the famed USS *Indianapolis*, and in March 1945, he survived
10 a kamikaze attack on the ship during the battle for Okinawa; later
11 that year, after the ship had delivered components for the first
12 atomic bomb to the island of Tinian, it was sunk by a Japanese
13 submarine, and in one of the worst tragedies in U.S. naval history,
14 880 men out of 1,197 died from drowning, starvation, or shark
15 attack; as one of the 317 survivors, Mr. Cox received the Purple
16 Heart; and

17 WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Cox resumed his education, and he
18 earned an associate's degree from John Tarleton Agricultural
19 College in 1947 and a bachelor's degree in agricultural education
20 from Texas A&M University in 1948; he worked as a teacher for a year
21 in San Angelo before settling near Comanche; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Cox was joined in matrimony to Sara Lou
23 McCarroll in 1949, and they shared a rewarding marriage of 65 years
24 until her death; together they were the parents of a son, Lowell,

1 and later in life were blessed with a grandson, Jeff; and

2 WHEREAS, Starting in 1952, Mr. Cox worked for Moorman
3 Manufacturing Company, and he soon became the sales manager for
4 Texas and New Mexico, holding that position until he retired in
5 1984; he was also a member of the board of directors of Comanche
6 National Bank for nearly five decades; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Cox was a member of the Church of Christ in
8 Sidney, as well as the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers
9 Association, the National Rifle Association, the American Legion,
10 the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans;
11 he lived an active lifestyle, regularly traveling to stock shows,
12 and he took pleasure in preparing his famous "two-song biscuits"
13 for guests at his ranch, kneading the dough for as long as it took to
14 sing two cowboy songs; and

15 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mr. Cox remained proud of his
16 service on the *Indianapolis*, and he reunited each year with his
17 fellow survivors in the city of Indianapolis to honor their lost
18 shipmates; he was a popular public speaker, sharing his story with
19 audiences around the nation and promoting the ideal of duty to one's
20 community and country; in 2000, he and three other survivors
21 appeared in a Discovery Channel documentary about a search for the
22 lost ship; and

23 WHEREAS, A loving family man, an engaged citizen, and a
24 patriotic veteran, L. D. Cox lived a long and remarkable life in
25 which he experienced both tragedy and triumph, and he leaves behind
26 a legacy that will continue to inspire all those who knew and loved
27 him; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Loel Dene Cox and
3 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his son,
4 Lowell Dean Cox II, and his wife, Terry; to his grandson, Jeff Lin;
5 to his niece, Suzanne Heptner, and her husband, Jerry; to his
6 nephew, Scott Brehm, and his wife, Minerba; and to his other
7 relatives and friends; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Loel Dene
11 Cox.

Sheffield

H.R. No. 503

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 503 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 12, 2015.

Chief Clerk of the House