

By: Sheffield

H.R. No. 503

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.