

By: Thompson of Harris

H.R. No. 1591

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a respected public servant drew to a
2 close with the passing of former state representative Phillip R.
3 Cates of Dripping Springs on July 13, 2014, at the age of 67; and

4 WHEREAS, Phil Cates was born in Pampa on January 6, 1947, to
5 Herman and Lavern Cates, and he grew up in Lefors, which he was fond
6 of calling "a town of 500 kinfolks, and they're all mine"; after
7 graduating from high school, he attended West Texas A&M University,
8 where he began his career in politics by winning four elections to
9 the Student Senate; during his university years, he was also a
10 member of the Baptist Student Union and Lambda Chi Alpha
11 fraternity; and

12 WHEREAS, At the age of 23, Mr. Cates was elected to his first
13 term in the Texas House of Representatives after winning a tightly
14 contested primary by two votes; he went on to represent his Texas
15 Panhandle constituents for four terms, from 1971 to 1979; during
16 that time, he furthered the work of the chamber through his
17 membership on a variety of committees, and he served as chair of the
18 Environmental Affairs Subcommittee on Pollution Control and as vice
19 chair of the Business and Industry and Human Resources Committees,
20 working with former speaker Rayford Price; and

21 WHEREAS, After leaving the Texas Legislature, Mr. Cates
22 moved with his family to Shamrock, where he worked as the director
23 of the chamber of commerce, became part owner of the *Shamrock Texan*
24 newspaper, and helped to establish Red River Savings and Loan;

1 eager to get back into politics, he moved with his family again to
2 Houston, where he worked for former speaker Byron Tunnell at
3 Tenneco, Inc., serving as a lobbyist in nine Southeastern states
4 for nine years; from 1980 to 1981, he lobbied for the Texas
5 Association of Business, and then he worked as a lobbyist with
6 former speaker Bill Clayton for eight years; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1989, Mr. Cates started his own lobbying firm,
8 Texas Stakeholders, which he operated until the time of his death;
9 he and his team created the well-known "Paint the Capitol Day,"
10 promoting the paint and coatings industry; in recognition of his
11 legislative and professional accomplishments, he received the
12 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the West Texas A&M University
13 Alumni Association; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates met his future wife, Nancy Holt, while
15 they were students at WTAMU, and they were married in 1970; the
16 couple shared a rewarding marriage that spanned four and a half
17 decades, and they raised two sons, Andrew and John; and

18 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to his family and to the Lone Star
19 State, Phil Cates made a positive difference in the lives of
20 countless Texans, and he will be fondly remembered by his
21 colleagues at the Texas Capitol and by all those who had the good
22 fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Phillip
25 R. Cates and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
26 family: to his wife, Nancy Cates; to his sons, Andrew Cates and John
27 Cates and his wife, Ruth; to his grandchildren, Ty Quincy and

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

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