

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 1679

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Jacksonville lost an admired
2 community leader and friend with the passing of Mayor Kenneth
3 Melvin on December 2, 2014, at the age of 74; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Melvin was born in Lindale on May 8, 1940, to
5 Cosby Ray and Ocie Algerine Melvin; he graduated from Lindale High
6 School and went on to attend Tyler Junior College, The University of
7 Texas at Tyler, and Dallas Business School; on May 28, 1959, he
8 married Fredia Nell Glaze, and they shared more than 55 years
9 together while lovingly raising a daughter, Ginger; and

10 WHEREAS, This lifelong Texan started his career as an
11 assistant manager and manager for various retailers in East Texas;
12 in 1969, he opened his own grocery business, which he sold in 1977
13 when he began employment with Southwestern Electric Service Company
14 in Jacksonville; following 32 years of service, he retired from his
15 position as comptroller of the company's business department; and

16 WHEREAS, After completing a training class in Hot Springs,
17 Arkansas, in 1970, Mr. Melvin also enjoyed work as a professional
18 square dance caller; he performed this role at the Jack & Jill Dance
19 Club in Jacksonville and numerous other dance halls around Texas,
20 and he was a guest caller for clubs as far away as Canada and Cancún;
21 moreover, he served his peers in a number of offices, including
22 president of the East Texas Callers Association and vice president
23 of the Texas State Callers' Association, and he was the featured
24 caller at several state festivals; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Melvin's interest in civic affairs led him to
2 join the Jacksonville City Council in 2005; he was elected mayor in
3 2011, and he held that office until the time of his passing; during
4 his tenure with the city, he worked to encourage cooperation in
5 efforts to better the community for all residents, and his business
6 acumen and attention to detail were appreciated by those on the
7 council who had the pleasure of working with him; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to his professional accomplishments,
9 Mayor Melvin volunteered for more than a decade with Hospice of East
10 Texas; he was also a member of the First United Methodist Church in
11 Jacksonville; and

12 WHEREAS, Held in high esteem by all who knew him, Kenneth
13 Melvin built a life that was rich in family, friends, and meaningful
14 achievements, and he will be fondly remembered and deeply missed;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable
18 Kenneth Melvin and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
19 family: to his wife, Fredia Nell Glaze Melvin; to his daughter,
20 Ginger Nell Melvin Mees; to his grandchildren, Benjamin Joseph Mees
21 and his wife, Sammie Jo, Andrew Brady Melvin, and Melody Kay Melvin;
22 to his great-grandson, Brady James Mees; to his siblings, Martha
23 Rae Phillips and Douglas and Joe Melvin; and to his other relatives
24 and friends; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Kenneth

H.R. No. 1679

1 Melvin.