

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 2029

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Jim Griffith of Waco has devoted much of his life to
2 public service and to advocacy on behalf of his political ideals;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The son of U.S. Olympic wrestling coach Art
5 Griffith, Mr. Griffith helped start the Texas A&M University NCAA
6 wrestling team during the 1950s, and during the 1960s he moved to
7 San Marcos, where he participated in the senatorial campaigns of
8 John Tower and George H. W. Bush; in 1962, he was elected chair of
9 the Hays County Republican Party, and the following year he was
10 elected to the State Republican Executive Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, An expert in issues related to poverty and
12 vocational education, Mr. Griffith has served four U.S.
13 presidents; under Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, he was the Office
14 of Economic Opportunity regional director for Texas, Oklahoma,
15 Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico, and he later moved to
16 Washington, D.C., where he served as the assistant director and
17 director of operations for the War on Poverty and the director of
18 Indian and migrant programs; and

19 WHEREAS, In the early 1980s, Mr. Griffith was working for the
20 Texas State Technical Institute in Waco when he met his future wife,
21 Sharon, who ran the school's admissions offices; when Mr. Griffith
22 was offered a chance to join the Reagan administration, the couple
23 moved to Washington, D.C., and got married in a church on Capitol
24 Hill; Mrs. Griffith went to work for the Republican National

1 Committee, while Mr. Griffith served as executive director of the
2 President's Council on Vocational and Technical Education, working
3 with state vocational education offices and the National Chamber of
4 Commerce; he was the author of a book published by the President's
5 Council called *A Nation at Work*; and

6 WHEREAS, The couple returned to the Waco area in 1989, and
7 Mr. Griffith continued to advise the administration of George H. W.
8 Bush on matters of vocational and technical education; in 1993, the
9 couple purchased and restored the historic Deyerle-Fall Mansion in
10 McGregor, which they now rent out for private parties, while
11 Mr. Griffith remains active in local politics; and

12 WHEREAS, Our communities benefit immeasurably from the
13 dedication of public-spirited individuals such as Jim Griffith, and
14 he may indeed take great pride in his myriad contributions to the
15 betterment of this state and nation; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commend Jim Griffith for his long and
18 distinguished record of public service and civic engagement and
19 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Griffith as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.