

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.R. No. 2191

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, With the passing of Jess Hay of Dallas on April 13,  
2 2015, the Lone Star State lost a champion for higher education, an  
3 accomplished business leader, and a legendary political advisor;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Jess Hay was born in Forney on January 22, 1931, to  
6 Myrtle Roddy and George Hay; he was joined in matrimony to Betty Jo  
7 Peacock in 1951, and they shared more than five decades together,  
8 until her death in 2005; they were the parents of two treasured  
9 daughters, Deborah and Patricia; and

10           WHEREAS, Mr. Hay earned a bachelor's degree in business  
11 administration from Southern Methodist University in 1953, and two  
12 years later, he received a degree from the SMU law school, where he  
13 graduated magna cum laude as class valedictorian and standard  
14 bearer; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1955, Mr. Hay joined the Dallas law firm of  
16 Locke, Purnell, Boren, Laney & Neely as an associate and worked his  
17 way up to become a partner; he became the chief executive officer of  
18 Lomas Financial Corporation in 1965, serving for nearly 30 years  
19 until his retirement in 1994; the following year, he cofounded HCB  
20 Enterprises, a private investment firm, and served as its chair  
21 until 2007; and

22           WHEREAS, Over the past half-century, Mr. Hay dedicated much  
23 of his time, energy, and expertise to the support of higher  
24 education in Texas; for 12 years, he was a member of the Board of

1 Regents of The University of Texas System, and while serving as  
2 chair, he was the driving force behind the formation of a coalition  
3 of educational institutions that worked to maintain funding during  
4 the economic downturn of the 1980s; moreover, he served on the SMU  
5 governing board, and he was a champion for The University of Texas  
6 Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas; and

7         WHEREAS, Mr. Hay was a leader in politics as well, and in 1977  
8 and 1978, he served as national finance chair of the Democratic  
9 National Committee; over the years, he further served as chair or  
10 co-chair of the campaign finance committees of Senator Lloyd  
11 Bentsen, Governor Dolph Briscoe, Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby,  
12 and Governor Mark White, and he was the Texas finance chair or  
13 co-chair for the campaigns of President Jimmy Carter, Senator John  
14 Glenn, Vice President Al Gore, and Vice President Walter Mondale,  
15 who once said, "If you're running for office in Texas, first visit  
16 the Alamo, then meet with Jess Hay"; while he was a proud Democrat,  
17 he was a statesman who believed that people should rise above  
18 parties and politics and work together to do what is best for the  
19 state and nation; and

20         WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan also found time to serve on the  
21 boards of 14 public companies on the New York Stock Exchange, as  
22 well as on the boards of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the  
23 Independent Colleges and Universities of Texas, the Association of  
24 Real Estate Investment Trusts, the Dallas Citizens Council, the  
25 Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of the National  
26 World War II Memorial, and The University of Texas Press; his  
27 numerous awards and recognitions included the Santa Rita Award from

1 the UT System, the Distinguished Service Award from the Association  
2 of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, and the  
3 Distinguished Alumni Award from SMU; and

4 WHEREAS, A man of profound religious conviction, Mr. Hay was  
5 a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church; he helped to found  
6 Ridgewood Park United Methodist Church in 1954, and at the time of  
7 his death, he was a member of Highland Park United Methodist Church;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Jess Hay lived a rich and purposeful life devoted to  
10 his family and to the service of his state and nation, and he leaves  
11 behind a remarkable legacy that will continue to inspire all those  
12 who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Jess Hay and extend  
15 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his daughters,  
16 Deborah Hay Spradley and her husband, Ernest, and Patricia Hay Bush  
17 and her husband, Paul; to his grandchildren, Jessica Werner  
18 Epperson, Rachel Hay Spradley, and Jess Albert Hay; to his  
19 grandson-in-law, Charles Douglas Epperson; to his  
20 great-granddaughters, Kathryn Elizabeth Epperson and Virginia Anne  
21 Epperson; to his dear friend and colleague, Ramona Taylor; and to  
22 his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jess Hay.