

By: Smith

H.R. No. 2499

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The maritime industry and the city of Houston lost
2 an admired leader with the passing of James T. Edmonds on May 11,
3 2014, at the age of 69; and

4 WHEREAS, Appointed to the Port Commission of the Port of
5 Houston Authority in 1996, Jim Edmonds served as its chair from 2000
6 to 2013; he recognized the importance of investing in the port's
7 future, and in the wake of 9/11, he skillfully guided the
8 modernization of security; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Edmonds worked tirelessly to promote the growth
10 of the port, which today ranks among the world's busiest and leads
11 the nation in foreign waterborne tonnage, U.S. imports, and U.S.
12 export tonnage; his tenure saw the completion of several major
13 projects, including the deepening and widening of the Houston Ship
14 Channel and the expansion of the Bayport Terminal; moreover, he
15 helped raise the port's profile by strengthening its small business
16 development program, planning a freight rail initiative, and
17 expanding environmental stewardship efforts; and

18 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to the greater community as well,
19 Mr. Edmonds devoted more than a quarter-century to the Memorial
20 Hermann Health System, offering notable direction as a member of
21 many of its boards; he chaired the Hospital System Board from 2007
22 to 2008, and he was a member of the board and executive committee of
23 the Greater Houston Partnership; in addition, he was a trusted
24 advisor to numerous business and government leaders over the course

1 of four decades; and

2 WHEREAS, The son of James and Patricia Edmonds, Mr. Edmonds
3 was born in Wichita, Kansas, on June 10, 1944; he graduated from
4 Abilene Christian University, and early in his career, he worked as
5 executive assistant to Houston Mayor Louie Welch and as
6 administrative assistant to Governor John Connally; subsequently,
7 he became a consulting principal with KPMG-Peat Marwick, and he was
8 a founding partner in an investment banking concern before
9 establishing his own business consulting firm, Edmonds and Company;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, James Edmonds made a profound impact on Houston
12 through his decades of civic engagement and public service, and his
13 accomplishments will continue to benefit residents in the years to
14 come; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of James T. Edmonds and
17 extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James T.
21 Edmonds.