By: Eltife S.C.R. No. 42

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1 2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of the Honorable Sam Wilson Russell, who died 3 4 May 14, 2014, at the age of 68; and WHEREAS, Sam Russell was born on August 31, 1945, in Gilmer; 5 he attended public schools in Mount Pleasant, and during high 6 7 school, he served as a White House page under the guidance of Congressman Wright Patman; he went on to earn degrees from East 8 Texas State University and the South Texas College of Law; and 9 10 WHEREAS, He married one of his best friends from high school, 11 Janet Sue Cox, in 1978; they raised two children together, Monica and Clay, and were blessed with two grandchildren, Tyler and Jack; 12 13 and WHEREAS, Mr. Russell joined his father's law firm in Mount 14 15 in 1979; he was elected to the Texas House Representatives in 1982 and served the people of Northeast Texas 16 with distinction for nearly 10 years; he was an influential member 17 of a number of committees and served as chair of the Criminal 18 Jurisprudence Committee and as House majority leader; and 19 20 WHEREAS, Mr. Russell left the legislature in 1992 to serve as legislative director for Governor Ann Richards; after leaving the 21 22 governor's office, he worked as a governmental affairs director, primarily representing interests in the fields of housing and 23

24

transportation; and

- 1 WHEREAS, He returned to his hometown of Mount Pleasant in
- 2 2005 and resumed the private practice of civil and criminal law; he
- 3 went on to serve as Titus County judge from 2006 to 2010; and
- WHEREAS, Over the course of his distinguished career in
- 5 public service, he received numerous honors; he was named
- 6 Legislator of the Year by the Texas Transit Association, and he
- 7 received a Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Chamber of
- 8 Commerce; he was recognized by the Texas State Teachers Association
- 9 and the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association for
- 10 his commitment to public education; and
- 11 WHEREAS, He was active in a number of civic and philanthropic
- 12 organizations, including the Mount Pleasant Rotary Club, Temple
- 13 Lodge 70 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, the Mount
- 14 Pleasant-Titus County Chamber of Commerce, and the Snow Hill
- 15 Cemetery Association; and
- WHEREAS, A man of courage, strength, and integrity, he gave
- 17 generously to others, and his wisdom and his enthusiasm for living
- 18 each day to the fullest will not be forgotten; and
- 19 WHEREAS, He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and
- 20 grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured
- 21 forever by his family and countless friends; now, therefore, be it
- 22 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 23 hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Sam
- 24 Wilson Russell; and, be it further
- 25 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for his
- 26 family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas
- 27 Legislature and that when the legislature adjourns this day, it do

S.C.R. No. 42

1 so in memory of Sam Wilson Russell.