By: Eltife

S.C.R. No. 42

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas honors and 3 commemorates the life of the Honorable Sam Wilson Russell, who died 4 May 14, 2014, at the age of 68; and

5 WHEREAS, Sam Russell was born on August 31, 1945, in Gilmer; 6 he attended public schools in Mount Pleasant, and during high 7 school, he served as a White House page under the guidance of 8 Congressman Wright Patman; he went on to earn degrees from East 9 Texas State University and the South Texas College of Law; and

10 WHEREAS, He married one of his best friends from high school, 11 Janet Sue Cox, in 1978; they raised two children together, Monica 12 and Clay, and were blessed with two grandchildren, Tyler and Jack; 13 and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell joined his father's law firm in Mount Pleasant in 1979; he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1982 and served the people of Northeast Texas with distinction for nearly 10 years; he was an influential member of a number of committees and served as chair of the Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and as House majority leader; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Russell left the legislature in 1992 to serve as 21 legislative director for Governor Ann Richards; after leaving the 22 governor's office, he worked as a governmental affairs director, 23 primarily representing interests in the fields of housing and 24 transportation; and

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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

4 WHEREAS, Over the course of his distinguished career in public service, he received numerous honors; he was 5 named Legislator of the Year by the Texas Transit Association, and he 6 7 received a Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Chamber of Commerce; he was recognized by the Texas State Teachers Association 8 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

16 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

WHEREAS, He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured 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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Legislature and that when the legislature adjourns this day, it do

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1 so in memory of Sam Wilson Russell.