

By: Isaac

H.C.R. No. 62

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The passing of William Parks Johnson on January 1,
2 2017, at the age of 93, has brought great sorrow to his loved ones
3 and neighbors in the city of Wimberley, where he was greatly admired
4 for his extraordinary generosity and kindness; and

5 WHEREAS, Bill Johnson was born in Houston in 1923 to Louise
6 Johnson and Parks Johnson, whose career in radio took the family to
7 nearly every state and another dozen countries during Bill's
8 childhood; after graduating from high school, he enrolled at The
9 University of Texas but interrupted his education to join the U.S.
10 Marine Corps when the United States entered World War II; as a first
11 lieutenant, he fought with his regiment in the Battle of Iwo Jima,
12 until being wounded and forced to return home with an honorable
13 discharge; and

14 WHEREAS, Resuming his studies at UT, Mr. Johnson pursued a
15 degree in geology and competed in swimming, serving as captain of
16 multiple conference championship swim teams; in 1947, following his
17 graduation, he married the love of his life, the former Mary Frances
18 Brown, with whom he shared a rewarding union that spanned nearly
19 seven decades; the couple moved to his family's ranch in Wimberley
20 and went on to raise five children, Lynn, Jock, Clay, Blake, and
21 Scott; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson first attempted to make a living through
23 ranching before taking a job as director of a start-up summer camp
24 under his old swimming coach; the environment at Camp Longhorn

1 proved to be an ideal fit for him, and he showed a special knack for
2 finding solutions to problems and a stubborn resistance to giving
3 up until a solution was found; he retired as camp director in 1978,
4 having left an indelible mark on the lives of many campers and
5 counselors, to whom he was always there to provide encouragement
6 and a sympathetic ear; and

7 WHEREAS, A proud resident of Wimberley for the better part of
8 a century, Mr. Johnson served as a longtime leader in the chamber of
9 commerce and as a founding member of Cypress Creek Church, and he
10 also dedicated a great deal of time to collecting and publishing
11 information about Wimberley history; and

12 WHEREAS, Throughout the course of his life, Bill Johnson
13 seldom hesitated to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it, and
14 those he leaves behind will forever find inspiration in their
15 memories of his unfailing compassion, integrity, and friendship;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby pay tribute to the life of William Parks Johnson and extend
19 sincere condolences to all those who mourn his passing; and, be it
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
24 Bill Johnson.