

By: Wu

H.R. No. 351

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texans are mourning the loss of Harry Joseph
2 Middleton of Austin, the longtime director of the LBJ Presidential
3 Library, who died on January 20, 2017, at the age of 95; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Centerville, Iowa, on October 24, 1921,
5 Harry Middleton grew up in Topeka, Kansas; he interrupted his
6 education at Washburn University during World War II to enlist in
7 the United States Army and later completed his bachelor's degree in
8 journalism at Louisiana State University; subsequently, he
9 reported for the Associated Press in New York and served again as an
10 officer in the Korean War; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton met President Lyndon Baines Johnson
12 in the course of writing a report for a presidential commission, and
13 he joined the administration as a staff assistant in 1967; over the
14 next two years, he wrote many memorable speeches for the president
15 and drafted messages to Congress advocating for new legislation; he
16 continued to work for President Johnson as a special assistant
17 following his return to Texas and worked on two books with him, *The*
18 *Choices We Face* and *The Vantage Point: Perspectives of the*
19 *Presidency*; and

20 WHEREAS, At the request of President Johnson, Mr. Middleton
21 took on leadership of the library before it opened in 1971; although
22 he had no experience as an archivist, he proved a visionary in the
23 field, making the library a vibrant center for history and public
24 affairs scholarship with frequent policy symposiums, notable

1 speakers, and compelling exhibits; he promoted transparency by
2 moving to declassify presidential papers and by preserving and
3 releasing recordings of conversations that shed new light on the
4 Johnson presidency; for three decades, he set the standard for
5 excellence, gaining wide recognition as "the Dean of Presidential
6 Librarians"; and

7 WHEREAS, From 1993 until 2004, Mr. Middleton also served as
8 executive director of the LBJ Foundation, and he became a mentor to
9 generations of aspiring public officials; he was an original
10 proponent of the dynamic partnership between the library and the
11 LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas, and
12 beginning in 2003, he taught a popular honors course at UT, *The*
13 *Johnson Years*; he also wrote a number of books, among them *The*
14 *Compact History of the Korean War*, *LBJ: The White House Years*, and
15 *Lady Bird Johnson: A Life Well-Lived*; the LBJ Foundation
16 established the Harry Middleton Fellowships in his honor, and his
17 myriad accolades further included the Presidential Rank of
18 Meritorious Executive, the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of
19 Liberty Award, and The University of Texas Presidential Citation;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Middleton shared a rewarding marriage with his
22 wife, Miriam, until her passing in 2004; he was the proud father of
23 Susan Hoyle, Deborah Sansom, James Middleton, and Jennifer O'Dell
24 and grandfather of Joshua Hoyle, Monica O'Dell Shields, Lindsay
25 O'Dell, and Reed O'Dell; and

26 WHEREAS, A man of tremendous wisdom and integrity, Harry
27 Middleton devoted himself to advancing the highest ideals of public

1 service, and his remarkable contributions will continue to resonate
2 in Texas and the nation for years to come; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
4 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Harry Joseph
5 Middleton and extend deep condolences to all who mourn his passing;
6 and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Harry
10 Middleton.