

By: Darby

H.R. No. 901

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature lost an admired alumnus with  
2 the passing of former state senator William McKinnie Sims of Paint  
3 Rock on August 29, 2016, at the age of 84; and

4           WHEREAS, Born to Benjamin and Ellen Sims on January 27, 1932,  
5 Bill Sims grew up in Paint Rock with his two brothers, Dunlap and  
6 Ben, and his sister, Kay; he graduated from Texas Tech University  
7 and served the Texas Agricultural Extension Service as assistant  
8 county agent for Howard County and as county agent for Irion County;  
9 in 1966, he became executive secretary for the Texas Sheep and Goat  
10 Raisers' Association, and he continued to hold that office for the  
11 next three decades; and

12           WHEREAS, Senator Sims was elected in 1982 to represent a vast  
13 district that ultimately covered 59 counties in West and Central  
14 Texas; during his four terms in office, he was involved with  
15 legislation addressing many rural and agricultural issues,  
16 including bovine tuberculosis, livestock theft, and fire ant,  
17 predator, and rabies control; he authored the bills that created  
18 the Texas Brush Control Program and the Texas Boll Weevil  
19 Eradication Foundation, which helped to virtually eliminate the  
20 destructive pest in Texas; moreover, he sponsored the bill  
21 reauthorizing the Texas Animal Health Commission; and

22           WHEREAS, Throughout his tenure, Senator Sims was a staunch  
23 champion for his constituents and an effective advocate for the  
24 Paint Rock Independent School District; he retired in 1997, and

1 that same year, he received the Texas A&M Distinguished Texan in  
2 Agriculture Award; the Wool and Mohair Research Laboratory at the  
3 Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in San Angelo was named in  
4 his honor in 2010; and

5 WHEREAS, A tough negotiator and a consummate statesman,  
6 Senator Sims valued cooperation and listened to all viewpoints  
7 before reaching a decision; his good cheer, collegiality, and  
8 wonderful sense of humor brought him many lasting friendships;  
9 above all, he was devoted to his family, including his wife of 61  
10 years, Sue, his children, Billy and Sue Ann, and his grandchildren  
11 and great-grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, Through his dedicated public service, Bill Sims made  
13 a lasting, positive impact on the State of Texas, and those who were  
14 privileged to share in the richness of his life will forever  
15 remember him with admiration and affection; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Bill  
18 Sims and extend sincere condolences to his family and friends; and,  
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William  
23 McKinnie Sims.