

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 1068

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life of professional achievement and dedicated  
2 public service drew to a close with the passing of former state  
3 representative Jack Harvey Harris on March 13, 2017, at the age of  
4 85; and

5           WHEREAS, The son of Frank and Marguerite Curry Harris, Jack  
6 Harris was born in Houston on December 12, 1931; he enlisted in the  
7 United States Air Force in 1953 and proudly served his country for  
8 eight years, rising to the rank of captain; during and after his  
9 career in the military, he attended a number of different colleges,  
10 including Texas A&M University, and he went on to complete  
11 bachelor's and master's degrees and a doctoral degree in dental  
12 surgery; and

13           WHEREAS, Dr. Harris built a successful private practice of  
14 dentistry and periodontics, which he operated from 1961 to 1991; he  
15 also shared his expertise as an assistant and associate professor  
16 of periodontics at The University of Texas Health Science Center at  
17 Houston and as a member of the advisory board of the Health Law &  
18 Policy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center; a leader  
19 in his profession, he served as president of both the Texas and  
20 American Dental Associations, and he held membership in the Houston  
21 District Dental Society and other groups; recognized with myriad  
22 honors throughout his career, he published widely in local, state,  
23 and national dental journals and delivered presentations at  
24 conferences and universities around the world; and

1           WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan decided to take on a more  
2 prominent role in shaping public policy, and his election as a  
3 legislator precipitated a 12-year tenure in the statehouse; from  
4 1985 to 1997, he worked diligently to advance the interests of his  
5 constituents in Brazoria and Fort Bend Counties, and he lent his  
6 insight to the deliberations of committees on public health,  
7 natural resources, environmental affairs, higher education, and  
8 many other key issues; he remained active in civic life after  
9 leaving office, serving as a Brazoria County commissioner from 1997  
10 to 2008; and

11           WHEREAS, Admired for his devotion to his family, Dr. Harris  
12 had a rewarding marriage with his loving wife, Mary Ellen, that  
13 spanned more than six decades, and he was immensely proud of their  
14 son, Rick; through the years, he was further blessed with two  
15 grandchildren, Ryan and Kathryn, as well as a treasured  
16 great-granddaughter, Avery; and

17           WHEREAS, Jack Harvey Harris was a man of considerable gifts  
18 and accomplishments whose life's work left an indelible mark on his  
19 profession and community, and he leaves behind a record of service  
20 that will continue to inspire all those who had the good fortune to  
21 know him; now, therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Jack  
24 Harvey Harris and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
25 family: to his wife, Mary Ellen Harris; to his son, Rick Harris and  
26 his wife, Susan; to his grandchildren, Ryan Harris and his wife,  
27 Stephanie, and Kathryn Harris Jones and her husband, Dustin; to his

1 great-granddaughter, Avery Madison Jones; to his sisters, Jean  
2 Pulleyn and Jane Shephard and her husband, David; and to his other  
3 relatives and friends; and, be it further

4       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the  
7 Honorable Jack Harvey Harris.