

By: Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 1376

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2017 marks the 30th anniversary of the
2 passage of the Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
3 Procedures Act, and this milestone presents a welcome opportunity
4 to recognize one of the bill's coauthors, the Honorable Frank
5 Evans; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1978, Texas Supreme Court chief justice Joe
7 Greenhill tasked Mr. Evans, a justice on the First Court of Appeals
8 in Houston, with finding a way to reduce congestion in the dockets
9 of trial and appellate courts in the state; convinced that
10 alternative dispute resolution was the best answer, Judge Evans
11 became a leading advocate for this method of limiting the number of
12 cases resolved through litigation, eventually earning the moniker
13 the "Father of Texas ADR"; in 1985, he, along with The University of
14 Texas at Austin law professor Edward F. Sherman and Texas state
15 senator Cynthia Taylor Krier, drafted legislation to provide a
16 comprehensive framework for ADR practice in the state, and the bill
17 was enacted by the Texas Legislature in 1987; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the years, Judge Evans further championed ADR
19 by helping to create the Houston Bar Association Special Committee
20 on ADR and the Houston Neighborhood Justice Center, persuading the
21 Harris County District Attorney's Office to begin referring citizen
22 complaints to mediation, establishing a juvenile justice system of
23 peer mediation in Texas elementary and secondary schools, and
24 serving as founding chair of the ADR Section of the State Bar of

1 Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, After nearly two decades as chief justice, Judge
3 Evans retired from the court in 1990, and he went on to found and
4 head the South Texas College of Law Center for Legal
5 Responsibility, which has since been renamed in his honor;
6 moreover, he was retained in an of-counsel position at the
7 Houston-based law firm Haynes & Boone and continued to benefit the
8 First Court of Appeals as a conference judge; today, he and his
9 wife, Elizabeth, reside in Bastrop; and

10 WHEREAS, Widely admired in the legal profession, Judge Frank
11 Evans has made immeasurable contributions to the justice system in
12 the Lone Star State, and he may take great pride in the part he
13 played in the ratification of the Texas Alternative Dispute
14 Resolution Procedures Act; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the 30th anniversary of the passage
17 of the Texas Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures Act and
18 commend the Honorable Frank Evans for his instrumental role in
19 promoting ADR in the Lone Star State; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Judge Evans as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives.