

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 1645

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The life of an admired attorney and state legislator  
2 drew to a close with the passing of former state representative  
3 Thomas Paul Moore Jr. of Waco on April 16, 2017, at the age of 98;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The son of Thomas and Clarabelle Moore, Tom Moore  
6 was born in Waco on May 16, 1918; he worked his way through Baylor  
7 University during the Great Depression and joined the United States  
8 Army immediately after earning his law degree; while attending  
9 military government school in Princeton, New Jersey, he met his  
10 future wife, Natalie Barlow; they married in Monterey, California,  
11 on June 16, 1944, just before he shipped out to Japan; and

12           WHEREAS, Following his return to Waco, Mr. Moore became an  
13 assistant district attorney; he was an outstanding trial lawyer,  
14 and in 1951, he was elected district attorney; during his  
15 eight-year tenure, he tried such prominent cases as the Harry L.  
16 Washburn murder prosecution, the first criminal trial to be  
17 televised in the United States; and

18           WHEREAS, Mr. Moore was a staunch Roosevelt Democrat and  
19 ardent champion of civil rights, the labor movement, open  
20 government, and equal access to power for all citizens; in 1967, he  
21 won a seat in the Texas House of Representatives in a special  
22 election, and he served through three legislative sessions; his  
23 accomplishments were highlighted by his successful efforts to bring  
24 about ethics reform as one of the "Dirty Thirty," a bipartisan group

1 of House members who united to fight corruption in the wake of the  
2 Sharpstown stock fraud scandal; moreover, his eloquent  
3 extemporaneous speeches so commanded attention in the house chamber  
4 that one of his fellow legislators pronounced him a shoo-in for  
5 Orator Laureate of Texas, should such a position be created; and

6 WHEREAS, From 1960 until 2014, Mr. Moore practiced general  
7 civil and criminal defense law in Waco, and he never turned down a  
8 client who needed his help, whether or not payment would be  
9 forthcoming; he brought to the courtroom a sharp intellect, deep  
10 experience, and a fierce commitment to defending the rights of his  
11 clients; he continued to practice into his 90s, and in 2009, he  
12 achieved what he considered the highest honor of his legal career  
13 when he became the only attorney in McLennan County permitted to  
14 appear in court without a tie; over the years, he was a mentor to  
15 many attorneys and emphasized the importance of ethics as well as  
16 skill; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Moore was the devoted father of three children,  
18 Margaret, Elizabeth, and Thomas; following the death of his first  
19 wife, Natalie, he was fortunate to find love a second time with  
20 Robbie Farek, and their marriage in 1984 brought him another son,  
21 Grant Farek; he was blessed with numerous grandchildren, Hillary,  
22 Luke, Annie, Mark, Tom, Thomas, Jaclyn, Alize, and Gavyn, and  
23 great-grandchildren, Jackson, Harrison, Sarah, Sadie, and Mabel;  
24 while happiest when his family was gathered around to enjoy his  
25 cooking, he also cherished the time he spent with dear friends,  
26 including members of the gang that played gin rummy in his office  
27 every afternoon for decades; he volunteered for Meals-on-Wheels for

1 more than 20 years, brightening the days of numerous people, and he  
2 was an active Episcopalian, serving as a vestryman for both the  
3 St. Alban's and Holy Spirit congregations; and

4 WHEREAS, From the courtrooms of McLennan County to the halls  
5 of the Texas Capitol, Tom Moore devoted himself to seeking justice  
6 and serving his fellow citizens, and he will forever hold a special  
7 place in the hearts of those who were privileged to know him; now,  
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable  
11 Thomas Paul Moore Jr. and extend sincere sympathy to all who mourn  
12 his passing; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom Moore.