

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 1957

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas legal community lost a true legend with  
2 the death of Richard "Racehorse" Haynes of Trinity on April 28,  
3 2017, at the age of 90; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Houston on April 3, 1927, Richard Michael  
5 Haynes was sent as a child to live with his grandmother in San  
6 Antonio during the Great Depression; she began his education before  
7 he was old enough for school, teaching him the three Rs and  
8 instilling in him a love of language; as a teenager, he received his  
9 colorful nickname from a football coach, but he distinguished  
10 himself more in boxing, becoming a welterweight champion; he joined  
11 the U.S. Navy after high school and earned the Navy and Marine Corps  
12 Medal for saving two wounded marines from drowning during the  
13 landing at Iwo Jima; and

14           WHEREAS, Following World War II, Mr. Haynes completed his  
15 bachelor's degree in accounting at the University of Houston and  
16 served as a paratrooper in the Korean War before going on to  
17 graduate from the University of Houston Law Center; his sharp  
18 intellect, remarkable memory, and flair for drama made him a  
19 formidable defense attorney, and early in his career, he prevailed  
20 in 163 consecutive DWI cases, one of the longest winning streaks in  
21 legal history; he achieved victories in numerous seemingly  
22 impossible cases, including some 40 capital murder trials, and *Time*  
23 magazine named him as one of the nation's best in his field; a  
24 number of his high-profile cases were celebrated in books, movies,

1 a Broadway play, and even a song, but in 2009, he told an  
2 interviewer that his biggest success was securing the freedom of an  
3 African American man framed for thefts committed by a white  
4 coworker; outside the courtroom, he was affable and engaging, and  
5 he was a mentor as well as a role model to many younger lawyers; he  
6 continued to practice law well into his 80s, when his health began  
7 to decline; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Haynes was devoted to his family, and he shared a  
9 fulfilling marriage of 63 years with his wife, Naomi Haynes, before  
10 her death; he was the proud father of Reginald "Slade" Haynes, Jason  
11 "Blake" Haynes, Ricki Cheryl Haynes, and the late Trayce Alexander,  
12 grandfather of Damon "Dusty" Haynes, Dillon McGilberry, Robyn  
13 Alexander, Kristyn Alexander, Parker Haynes, Justin O'Cain,  
14 Sterling Haynes, and Hayley Reanne Haynes, and great-grandfather of  
15 Cole Haynes, Tyler Richard Haynes, Madison Haynes, Alexandra  
16 McGilberry, Naomi Grace Haynes, and Tanner O'Cain; and

17 WHEREAS, Racehorse Haynes will remain a name to reckon with  
18 in the history of the legal profession, and those who were  
19 privileged to share in his love and friendship will forever  
20 treasure their memories of his warmth, sardonic wit, and great  
21 kindness; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Richard "Racehorse"  
24 Haynes and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing;  
25 and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

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1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Richard  
2 "Racehorse" Haynes.