

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 2051

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and exuberant life has drawn to a close with
2 the death of Willard Howard Hammonds Sr. of Corpus Christi on April
3 16, 2017, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, Willard Hammonds was born in Pilot Point on June 21,
5 1929, and adopted the following day by Lela and Johnnie Hammonds;
6 raised in Corpus Christi, he went to work delivering newspapers at
7 the age of 8, and at 16 he joined the merchant marine; sailing the
8 world instilled in him a lifelong love of travel and adventure; and

9 WHEREAS, After returning to Corpus Christi, Mr. Hammonds was
10 joined in matrimony to Jeannine Delores Schmidt in 1950, and the
11 couple shared a rewarding marriage that spanned 51 years, until her
12 death in 2001; he was the proud father of a daughter, Johnnie Lynn
13 Hammonds, and a son, Willard Hammonds II, and in later life, he was
14 blessed with four grandchildren, Tiller, Chase, Willard, and
15 Whitney, and six great-grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, Starting with a house-moving business, Mr. Hammonds
17 went on to build a real estate empire that stretched from Corpus
18 Christi to Dallas; a true bon vivant, he piloted his own airplanes
19 and sailed his two pleasure boats, the *Sundancer* and the *Jeannine D*,
20 and he enjoyed gambling, fishing, and regaling listeners with
21 stories of his life; and

22 WHEREAS, Willard Hammonds was fond of saying, "I climbed to
23 the top of the mountain, and loved what I saw," and the memory of his
24 generosity and joie de vivre will continue to inspire and delight

1 all those who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Willard Howard
4 Hammonds Sr. and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many
5 friends; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
8 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Willard
9 Howard Hammonds Sr.