

By: Oliverson

H.R. No. 2216

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Tomball lost an admired civic leader
2 with the passing of former mayor Harold Gene Harrington on May 17,
3 2016, at the age of 81; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Newman and Gladys Harrington, "Hap"
5 Harrington was born in Weldon on September 29, 1934, and grew up
6 with the companionship of his sister, Carol; he graduated with the
7 Class of 1953 at Stephen F. Austin High School in Houston, and he
8 went on to earn a master's degree in education from Sam Houston
9 State University; in college, he distinguished himself as a member
10 of the football team, helping lead the Bearkats to state and
11 national championships and to their only undefeated season in
12 school history; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrington began his career in education as a
14 teacher and coach before transitioning to school administration; he
15 served as assistant vice principal and principal at McAllen High
16 School and then as principal of Klein High School; he was later
17 installed as superintendent of the Tomball Independent School
18 District in 1980; and

19 WHEREAS, Dedicated to public service, Mr. Harrington entered
20 politics in 1992 with his election as mayor of Tomball, and he ably
21 served in that office for five terms; he also represented his
22 community as a member of the board of the Southeast Texas Housing
23 Authority; in recognition of his outstanding efforts, he was
24 selected as the 1990 Tomball Citizen of the Year; and

1 WHEREAS, A man of strong faith, Mr. Harrington was a longtime
2 congregant of Salem Lutheran Church; in his leisure hours, he
3 enjoyed watching sports, gardening, painting, and woodworking; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrington shared a fulfilling marriage with
5 his wife of more than four decades, Shirley; over the years, he
6 became the proud father of three children, Nina, Kenneth, and
7 Douglas, and he was further blessed with two stepdaughters, Sherron
8 and Julie, as well as eight grandchildren and five
9 great-grandchildren; and

10 WHEREAS, Through his vision, leadership, and selfless
11 commitment to the well-being of others, Hap Harrington made a
12 lasting, positive difference in Tomball, and although he is deeply
13 missed, his love for his community will continue to inspire his
14 fellow citizens for years to come; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Harold Gene
17 Harrington and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and
18 friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Harold Gene
22 Harrington.