86R11318 BK-D

By:  Bonnen of Brazoria H.R. No. 372

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The life of a respected businessman and a devoted family man drew to a close with the passing of Vernon Ray Stewart of Brazoria on November 12, 2018, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, The son of Joseph Isaiah and Opal Virginia Stewart, Vernon Stewart was born in Crockett on November 10, 1936; before he was even a teenager, he began working in the grocery business, which later became the focus of his career as an entrepreneur; he opened his first grocery store in West Columbia, and after that venture proved successful, he expanded the business by purchasing other stores that were struggling; his Stewart's Food Stores chain eventually included locations in Brazoria and Sweeny, where it has established a reputation among residents for its quality meats; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart shared more than six decades of marriage with the love of his life, Joyce Stewart, whom he wed on June 14, 1957; together, they raised four children, Dwain, Donna, Alesia, and Brenda; Mr. Stewart endeavored to instill in his children a commitment to service, and he took joy in welcoming them into the family business and continuing to develop the friendly rapport that his store shared with its customers; in April 2018, the Stewart family accepted a Philanthropist of the Year award from the Community Foundation of Brazoria County, which recognized their generosity in keeping their stores open and providing much-needed supplies to their fellow residents after Hurricane Harvey swept through the area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart loved his life in Brazoria, and in later years, he enjoyed tending to his cattle at his ranch; above all else, he treasured his family, and he inspired all who knew him with his honesty, his kindness, and his can-do spirit; and

WHEREAS, Vernon Stewart lived a life that was rich in personal and professional achievements, and he leaves behind a legacy that will long be treasured; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Vernon Ray Stewart and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Joyce Stewart; to his children, Dwain Stewart and his wife, Tina, Donna Stewart Fink and her husband, James, Alesia Stewart, and Brenda Stewart Gregurek; to his 20 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren; to his siblings, Calvin Stewart and his wife, Maimie, Joyce Finley and her husband, Kenneth, and Ronnie Stewart and his wife, Elizabeth; and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

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