H.R. No. 914

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost an esteemed lawmaker and dedicated public servant with the death of former State Representative and Harris County Commissioner Tom Bass on March 3, 2019, at the age of 92; and

WHEREAS, A third-generation Houstonian, Tom Bass was born to Mary Lee Scoggins Bass and Thomas Hutcheson Bass on January 11, 1927; he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944, and although World War II soon ended, he remained in the Army Reserve until 1980, rising to the rank of colonel; after graduating from The University of Texas in 1950, he married his sweetheart, the former Mary Ann King, and they became the parents of 10 children, Martin Gerard, who predeceased him, and Patty, Paul, Rita, Amy, Vicki, Bob, Dan, Laura, and David; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bass began his career in education with the Houston Independent School District, and following his graduate studies, he taught political science at Dominican College and the University of St. Thomas; his interest in politics led him to run for office, and in 1962, he won election to the Texas House of Representatives from Harris County; he chaired the committees on school districts, narcotics investigating, interim activities, and juvenile crime and delinquency and served on a number of others; during the 62nd Legislature, he was a founding member of the "Dirty Thirty," who crossed party lines to force out several prominent state leaders enmeshed in the Sharpstown stock-fraud scandal; he worked tirelessly to promote civil rights and to ensure that the redistricting process gave a voice to previously disenfranchised African American and Latino voters; and

WHEREAS, Following a decade in the legislature, Representative Bass was elected to the Harris County Commissioners Court; he fostered greater transparency, persuading the court to publish meeting agendas; recognizing the challenges population growth would bring, he spearheaded county efforts to buy up flood-prone land, leading to the creation of parks and green belts; in addition, he took a proactive approach to building transportation and health care infrastructure; he was also aware of changing demographics, and following the 1980 census, he pushed his colleagues to redraw the county precinct boundaries to ensure Precinct 1 was majority-minority; in 1985, he stepped down in order to clear the way for African American candidates; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bass continued to work in behalf of his fellow citizens, bringing the state's first 9-1-1 District to the county; in recognition of his contributions, the county named Tom Bass Regional Park and the Greater Harris 9-1-1 critical call center building in his honor; and

WHEREAS, A longtime member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Representative Bass served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and member of the pastoral council; he was an avid runner, and he won hundreds of age awards and competed in three Boston Marathons and dozens of other long-distance races; into his 80s, he competed at all levels of the Senior Olympics; he had friends of all ages and played for pennies with his regular poker group; above all, he enjoyed spending time with a large extended family, including 23 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters, as well as many cousins; and

WHEREAS, Gentle, kind, and unassuming, Tom Bass always looked out for those most vulnerable and sought to make democracy more responsive and representative; he addressed issues at the state and local levels with vision and principled leadership, and he will be remembered with deep admiration and affection by all who were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Tom Bass and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; 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 former State Representative Tom Bass.

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| Bonnen of Brazoria | Guerra | Noble |
| Allen | Guillen | Oliverson |
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| Anderson | Harris | Paddie |
| Ashby | Hefner | Parker |
| Bailes | Hernandez | Patterson |
| Beckley | Herrero | Paul |
| Bell of Kaufman | Hinojosa | Perez |
| Bell of Montgomery | Holland | Phelan |
| Bernal | Howard | Price |
| Biedermann | Huberty | Ramos |
| Blanco | Hunter | Raney |
| Bohac | Israel | Raymond |
| Bonnen of Galveston | E. Johnson of Dallas | Reynolds |
| Bowers | J. Johnson of Dallas | Rodriguez |
| Buckley | Johnson of Harris | Romero, Jr. |
| Bucy | Kacal | Rose |
| Burns | King of Hemphill | Rosenthal |
| Burrows | King of Parker | Sanford |
| Button | King of Uvalde | Schaefer |
| Cain | Klick | Shaheen |
| Calanni | Krause | Sheffield |
| Canales | Kuempel | Sherman, Sr. |
| Capriglione | Lambert | Shine |
| Clardy | Landgraf | Smith |
| Cole | Lang | Smithee |
| Coleman | Larson | Springer |
| Collier | Leach | Stephenson |
| Cortez | Leman | Stickland |
| Craddick | Longoria | Stucky |
| Cyrier | Lopez | Swanson |
| Darby | Lozano | Talarico |
| Davis of Dallas | Lucio III | Thierry |
| Davis of Harris | Martinez | Thompson of Brazoria |
| Dean | Martinez Fischer | Thompson of Harris |
| Deshotel | Metcalf | Tinderholt |
| Dominguez | Meyer | Toth |
| Dutton | Meza | Turner of Dallas |
| Farrar | Middleton | Turner of Tarrant |
| Fierro | Miller | VanDeaver |
| Flynn | Minjarez | Vo |
| Frank | Moody | Walle |
| Frullo | Morales | White |
| Geren | Morrison | Wilson |
| Gervin-Hawkins | Muñoz, Jr. | Wray |
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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 914 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 10, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House