

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.C.R. No. 177

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a much admired lawmaker and  
2 friend to many with the death of former House Speaker Pro Tempore  
3 D. R. "Tom" Uher of Bay City on March 9, 2019, at the age of 81; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Alfonso A. Uher and May Bittick Uher, Tom  
5 Uher was born in Bay City in 1937, and he grew up with the  
6 companionship of three siblings, Doris, LaVerne, and Myrna; he  
7 earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 1960  
8 followed by earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence at The University  
9 of Texas in 1962; he then returned home to open his law practice;  
10 for 55 years, he continued to serve his clients, truly enjoying work  
11 both as an attorney and spending time outdoors, coaching Little  
12 League and in his final year of coaching in 2012, his team won the  
13 Little League Minors Championship, teaching Bible study at the  
14 First Presbyterian Church, and watching football, especially his  
15 beloved Longhorns; and

16           WHEREAS, Representative Uher shared a rewarding marriage of  
17 more than 55 years with his wife, Ann Hagaman Uher, and they  
18 welcomed into their family two daughters, Christi Joe and Catherine  
19 Ann, and a son, Robert, as well as two grandsons, Christopher Joseph  
20 and the late Noah Carl Uher; and

21           WHEREAS, In 1967, Representative Uher won a special election  
22 to the House on his 30th birthday, December 16; his constituents in  
23 Matagorda, Wharton, and Brazoria Counties would reelect him 17  
24 times; serving over three decades and eight Presidents, he served

1 as Speaker Pro Tempore from the 73rd through 77th Legislatures, and  
2 upon leaving the Legislature was Dean of the House; he held numerous  
3 leadership roles, serving as Chair of the House Committee on State  
4 Affairs, Chair of the Higher Education Subcommittee on Budget and  
5 Oversight, and Chair of the committees on Redistricting, Degree  
6 Plans, and Regions, Compacts, and Districts, as well as Chair of the  
7 Animal Health Commission; in addition, he was Vice Chair of the  
8 General Investigating Committee, the Public Health Committee, and  
9 the Select Committee on Child Pornography; he further served as a  
10 member of such committees as Public Education, Higher Education,  
11 and Ways and Means; moreover, he was instrumental in the passage of  
12 Senate Bill 438, exempting the expansion of Darrell K. Royal Texas  
13 Memorial Stadium from the Capitol view corridor guidelines; this  
14 pivotal legislation allowed for the expansion of the facility to  
15 provide seating for more than 100,000 guests; in addition, he took  
16 special pride in the passage of a bill he authored that granted MD  
17 Anderson Cancer Center patients access to care without referrals;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Charming and collegial, Representative Uher earned  
20 the affection of all his colleagues; he commonly ended  
21 conversations by calling others "Great American," and he himself  
22 became fondly known as the "Great American"; after leaving the  
23 House in 2003, he continued to share his wisdom and experience as a  
24 mentor whether to a young person, friend or colleague, or fellow  
25 elected officials, both in Austin and his hometown of Bay City; and

26 WHEREAS, Through his steadfast dedication to public service,  
27 Tom Uher made a lasting, positive impact in the lives of innumerable

1 Texans, and his contributions will be remembered for years to come;  
2 now, therefore, be it

3       RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas  
4 hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable D. R. "Tom" Uher  
5 and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be  
6 it further

7       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for his family, and that when the Texas House of  
9 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
10 former House Speaker Pro Tempore D. R. "Tom" Uher.