

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 372

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart shared more than six decades of marriage
14 with the love of his life, Joyce Stewart, whom he wed on June 14,
15 1957; together, they raised four children, Dwain, Donna, Alesia,
16 and Brenda; Mr. Stewart endeavored to instill in his children a
17 commitment to service, and he took joy in welcoming them into the
18 family business and continuing to develop the friendly rapport that
19 his store shared with its customers; in April 2018, the Stewart
20 family accepted a Philanthropist of the Year award from the
21 Community Foundation of Brazoria County, which recognized their
22 generosity in keeping their stores open and providing much-needed
23 supplies to their fellow residents after Hurricane Harvey swept
24 through the area; and

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

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

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

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