

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost an esteemed lawmaker and  
2 dedicated public servant with the death of former State  
3 Representative and Harris County Commissioner Tom Bass on March 3,  
4 2019, at the age of 92; and

5           WHEREAS, A third-generation Houstonian, Tom Bass was born to  
6 Mary Lee Scoggins Bass and Thomas Hutcheson Bass on January 11,  
7 1927; he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944, and although World War  
8 II soon ended, he remained in the Army Reserve until 1980, rising to  
9 the rank of colonel; after graduating from The University of Texas  
10 in 1950, he married his sweetheart, the former Mary Ann King, and  
11 they became the parents of 10 children, Martin Gerard, who  
12 predeceased him, and Patty, Paul, Rita, Amy, Vicki, Bob, Dan,  
13 Laura, and David; and

14           WHEREAS, Representative Bass began his career in education  
15 with the Houston Independent School District, and following his  
16 graduate studies, he taught political science at Dominican College  
17 and the University of St. Thomas; his interest in politics led him  
18 to run for office, and in 1962, he won election to the Texas House of  
19 Representatives from Harris County; he chaired the committees on  
20 school districts, narcotics investigating, interim activities, and  
21 juvenile crime and delinquency and served on a number of others;  
22 during the 62nd Legislature, he was a founding member of the "Dirty  
23 Thirty," who crossed party lines to force out several prominent  
24 state leaders enmeshed in the Sharpstown stock-fraud scandal; he

1 worked tirelessly to promote civil rights and to ensure that the  
2 redistricting process gave a voice to previously disenfranchised  
3 African American and Latino voters; and

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

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

21       WHEREAS, A longtime member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church,  
22 Representative Bass served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and  
23 member of the pastoral council; he was an avid runner, and he won  
24 hundreds of age awards and competed in three Boston Marathons and  
25 dozens of other long-distance races; into his 80s, he competed at  
26 all levels of the Senior Olympics; he had friends of all ages and  
27 played for pennies with his regular poker group; above all, he

1 enjoyed spending time with a large extended family, including 23  
2 grandchildren and 2 great-granddaughters, as well as many cousins;  
3 and

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

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Tom Bass  
12 and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of former  
16 State Representative Tom Bass.

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Bonnen of Brazoria	Guerra	Noble
Allen	Guillen	Oliverson
Allison	Gutierrez	Ortega
Anchia	Harless	Pacheco
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
Cyrrier	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
Goldman	Murphy	Wu
González of Dallas	Murr	Zedler
González of El Paso	Neave	Zerwas
Goodwin	Nevárez	Zwiener

H.R. No. 914

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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