

By: Landgraf

H.R. No. 1533

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Raymon Charles Stoker Jr. of Odessa
2 on August 31, 2018, at the age of 79, concluded a remarkable life of
3 service to the state and to his community; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Raymon Charles Stoker Sr. and Claudene
5 Stoker, Ray Stoker was born in Odessa on February 19, 1939, and grew
6 up with a sister, Betty; he completed both his bachelor's degree and
7 his law degree at Baylor University, where he was captain of the
8 golf team, president of the Letterman's Club, and a member of the
9 Baylor Law Review editorial board; on August 24, 1963, he married
10 the former Carole Fannin, and they became the parents of Raymon,
11 Carole, Craig, and Cathleen; he was later blessed with a grandson,
12 Connor; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Stoker began his career as a briefing attorney
14 for the chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court; returning to
15 Odessa, he joined the Shafer Law Firm, where he would practice for
16 53 years, focusing on insurance defense litigation; he was a member
17 of many professional associations and served as president of the
18 Ector County Bar Association and as a member of the board of Baylor
19 Law School; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1985, Mr. Stoker was appointed by Governor Mark
21 White to the Texas State Highway and Public Transportation
22 Commission, and after helping to guide it through a positive sunset
23 review, he was named chair of the newly formed Texas Department of
24 Transportation by Governor Ann Richards; he also served on the

1 boards of the Texas Turnpike Authority and the Texas High-Speed
2 Rail Authority; committed to improving infrastructure, he was
3 instrumental in the development of the Texas Highway Trunk System,
4 composed of 10,500 miles of rural highways; following his
5 retirement from TxDOT in 1993, he served for 10 years as chair of
6 the Texas Good Roads Transportation Association; he further served
7 as the attorney for the Colorado River Municipal Water District;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Stoker gave generously of his time and talents
10 to many state and local organizations, among them the Texas Council
11 on Economic Education, The University of Texas Permian Basin
12 Development Board, and the Texas Water Development Board; in
13 addition, he served on the boards of High Sky Children's Ranch, the
14 Permian Basin Area Foundation, the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum,
15 and the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum; and

16 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, both Ray Stoker Jr. Highway and a ferry
17 between Galveston and the Bolivar Peninsula were named in his
18 honor, and he was later inducted into the Transportation Hall of
19 Honor; among myriad other accolades, he received the Heritage of
20 Odessa Award and the Coleman County Chamber of Commerce,
21 Agriculture and Tourist Bureau Award, and he was named Odessa
22 Citizen of the Year for 1991; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Stoker was sustained through life's challenges
24 by his strong faith; a man of great warmth, generosity, good humor,
25 and fine character, he had a wide circle of longtime friends from
26 his work, his civic endeavors, and his favorite leisure pursuits,
27 hunting, fishing, golfing, and traveling; he is remembered with

1 deep affection by all who were privileged to know him, and his
2 outstanding contributions to his state and his community will
3 continue to benefit his fellow citizens in the years to come; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ray Stoker and extend
7 sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Raymon
11 Charles Stoker Jr.