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By:  Darby H.C.R. No. 87

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The citizens of Texas lost an admired public servant with the passing of former state representative John Clifford Otto on August 1, 2020, at the age of 71; and

WHEREAS, Born to John and Susan Otto in Dayton on October 14, 1948, John Otto grew up with two brothers, Calvin and Glenn, and two sisters, Susan and Danita; while completing his bachelor's degree in accounting at Texas A&M University, he rose to become head drum major of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band; he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served on active and reserve duty for eight years; his career as a certified public accountant included a five-year tenure with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, and Company in Houston and 35 years as the owner of a successful CPA practice in Dayton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Otto served his community in many roles, including as a trustee of the Dayton Independent School District and as a member of the Dayton City Council; in 2004, he won election to the Texas House of Representatives and quickly made his mark; he was named Rookie of the Year by *Texas Monthly* and received similar recognition from his peers; over the course of six terms in office, he was appointed to numerous committees; his financial acumen made him particularly effective as chair of the House Appropriations Committee and the Select Committees on Fiscal Stability and Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform, as well as vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee and member of the Legislative Audit Committee; in addition, he served on the Legislative Budget Board; among myriad accolades, he received a Fighter for Free Enterprise Award from the Texas Association of Business, and he was selected for the Legislative Honor Roll by the Texas PTA; and

WHEREAS, In 2017, Mr. Otto accepted his dream job as assistant vice chancellor and director of local government relations for The Texas A&M University System; the position allowed him to champion the interests of his beloved alma mater while continuing to work with his colleagues in the legislature; in July 2020, in order to acknowledge his ardent support of the Aggie Band, the system chancellor organized a virtual ceremony with family, friends, and fellow Aggie legislators to announce the naming of the drum major's baton in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Otto married his high school sweetheart, the former Nancy Whitman, in December 1969; while helping to raise their two sons, Bryan and Jason, he enthusiastically cheered them on in sports and ensured they were properly initiated into Aggie football fandom; he later had the pleasure of seeing the family grow to include six grandchildren, Brendon, Maddie, Hadley, Bailee, Emilee, and Malloree; before moving to Bryan-College Station, the Ottos sang in the choir at First United Methodist Church in Dayton, where Mr. Otto served as treasurer for more than a quarter century; and

WHEREAS, Although John Otto is deeply missed by those he left behind, his life stands as an outstanding example of civic engagement, and his contributions will be remembered and admired in the years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable John Clifford Otto 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 and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of John Otto.