87R20846 BHH-D

By:  Raney H.R. No. 749

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The city of Bryan lost a distinguished citizen with the death of the Honorable William Thomas McDonald Jr. on February 17, 2021, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, Born in Bryan on February 15, 1940, to W. T. and Nonie McDonald, Tom McDonald earned his law degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1966; he married the former Caroline Sweeney in 1965, and he took great pride in his sons, Scott and Don, daughter-in-law, Amanda, and grandchildren, Hunter and Grace; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of an outstanding career in the law, Mr. McDonald served as assistant district attorney in Travis County and as county attorney and district attorney in Brazos County; he followed in his father's footsteps to become judge of the 85th Judicial District, and since 1991 he had served throughout the state as a senior district judge; he further contributed to his profession as president of the Brazos County Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, A leader in his community, Judge McDonald was a founder of Brazos County Humane Society, Brazos County Counseling Service, and Boonville Heritage Park, and he held leadership roles with the City of Bryan Parks and Recreation Board and the Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District; a man of strong religious faith, he was an active member of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of Bryan; he also was admired for his patriotism, his love of nature, and his dedication to history, education, and the fair and just application of the law; and

WHEREAS, Judge McDonald's numerous honors include the Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Civil Jurist Award from the Texas Bar Foundation, the Outstanding Criminal Jurist Award from the State Bar of Texas, and the Silver Good Citizenship Award from the Sons of Herrmann, among many others; and

WHEREAS, A respected jurist and an engaged citizen, Tom McDonald lived a life that was rich in personal and professional achievements, and he will forever be a source of inspiration to those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Judge William Thomas McDonald Jr. and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family and to his many friends; 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 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom McDonald.