

By: Darby

H.C.R. No. 87

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

4 WHEREAS, Born to John and Susan Otto in Dayton on October 14,
5 1948, John Otto grew up with two brothers, Calvin and Glenn, and two
6 sisters, Susan and Danita; while completing his bachelor's degree
7 in accounting at Texas A&M University, he rose to become head drum
8 major of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band; he was commissioned as a
9 second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served on active and reserve
10 duty for eight years; his career as a certified public accountant
11 included a five-year tenure with Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, and
12 Company in Houston and 35 years as the owner of a successful CPA
13 practice in Dayton; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Otto served his community in many roles,
15 including as a trustee of the Dayton Independent School District
16 and as a member of the Dayton City Council; in 2004, he won election
17 to the Texas House of Representatives and quickly made his mark; he
18 was named Rookie of the Year by *Texas Monthly* and received similar
19 recognition from his peers; over the course of six terms in office,
20 he was appointed to numerous committees; his financial acumen made
21 him particularly effective as chair of the House Appropriations
22 Committee and the Select Committees on Fiscal Stability and
23 Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform, as well as vice chair of
24 the Ways and Means Committee and member of the Legislative Audit

1 Committee; in addition, he served on the Legislative Budget Board;
2 among myriad accolades, he received a Fighter for Free Enterprise
3 Award from the Texas Association of Business, and he was selected
4 for the Legislative Honor Roll by the Texas PTA; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2017, Mr. Otto accepted his dream job as
6 assistant vice chancellor and director of local government
7 relations for The Texas A&M University System; the position allowed
8 him to champion the interests of his beloved alma mater while
9 continuing to work with his colleagues in the legislature; in July
10 2020, in order to acknowledge his ardent support of the Aggie Band,
11 the system chancellor organized a virtual ceremony with family,
12 friends, and fellow Aggie legislators to announce the naming of the
13 drum major's baton in his honor; and

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

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

1 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable John Clifford Otto
3 and extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
7 John Otto.