

By: Jetton

H.R. No. 1087

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, John William Hartman of Richmond, an esteemed
2 newspaperman and friend to many, passed away on May 3, 2021, at the
3 age of 79; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Betty and Fred Hartman, Bill Hartman was
5 born in Houston on July 19, 1941, and he grew up in Baytown with the
6 companionship of his sister, Mary; he graduated from Robert E. Lee
7 High School in 1959 and went on to earn a business administration
8 degree from Baylor University in 1962; and

9 WHEREAS, While still a teenager, Mr. Hartman began working as
10 a janitor for the *Baytown Sun*, where his father was the editor and
11 publisher; after beginning his journalism career as a sports
12 reporter, he took a position as editor and publisher for the
13 *Bayshore Sun* in La Porte, and he subsequently returned to the
14 *Baytown Sun* in 1965 as its general manager; he then served as editor
15 and publisher of the *Beaumont Enterprise and Journal* until 1974;
16 that same year, he established Hartman Newspapers, Inc., with the
17 purchase of *The Herald-Coaster*, which later became known as the
18 *Fort Bend Herald*; at its peak, his company owned 17 community
19 newspapers in Texas and Oklahoma, and today it continues to operate
20 9 Texas newspapers; he further contributed to the industry as a
21 member of the Baseball Writers Association of America Houston
22 Chapter and as president of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association,
23 which named him the Pat Taggart Newspaper Leader of the Year in
24 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, Active in the wider community as well, Mr. Hartman
2 held leadership roles with numerous organizations, including the
3 Rosenberg-Richmond Area Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Fort Bend
4 Economic Development Council, Polly Ryon Memorial Hospital, and the
5 Rosenberg Rotary Club; moreover, he was a valued congregant of
6 St. John's United Methodist Church in Richmond; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hartman was the proud father of three children,
8 Fred, Lee, and Lizz, and he doted on his six grandchildren, Drew,
9 Kate, Alex, Ella, Julia, and Blake; in his leisure hours, he enjoyed
10 playing golf, spending time outdoors, and showing Arabian horses;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, An engaged citizen, a devoted family man, and an
13 admired professional, Bill Hartman lived a full and generous life,
14 and he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire all
15 those who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of John William
18 Hartman and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his
19 passing; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill
23 Hartman.