

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

In Memory
of
James White

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of James Morris White, a beloved icon of the Austin community, who died January 24, 2021, at the age of 81; and

WHEREAS, James White was a fifth-generation Texan and a lifelong Austinite; he broke with a long family tradition of service in law enforcement to follow his dream of opening the best dance hall in Texas, and he succeeded in building a cultural treasure in the heart of his hometown community; and

WHEREAS, This legendary Texan was born on April 12, 1939; he graduated from Travis High School in 1957, and he served with distinction in the United States Army from 1961 to 1964; after returning home from military service, he began construction on the Broken Spoke, a South Austin honky-tonk bar, restaurant, and dance hall; in 1966, he married his life's true love, Annetta Wells; and

WHEREAS, With Annetta by his side, James created a celebrated landmark and country music hub that captured and preserved part of the Lone Star State's mythical charm; the Broken Spoke helped mark the path to stardom for such musical greats as Bob Wills, Ray Benson, The Dixie Chicks, Willie Nelson, and Garth Brooks; the music venue was featured in the documentary *Honky Tonk Heaven: Legend of the Broken Spoke* and was on the cover of George Strait's 2019 album, *Honky Tonk Machine*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. White's iconic venue remains a favorite watering hole for both locals and legends, and his vision will

continue to live on through the ongoing leadership of his wife, Annetta, and his two daughters, Terri White and Virginia White-Peacock; he leaves behind four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, who were a source of pride and joy to him; and

WHEREAS, James White was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather and a truly quintessential Texan; he was a cherished member of the Austin community, and he will long be remembered with respect and admiration by all who were privileged to share in his life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of James Morris White; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James White.

Eckhardt

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 9, 2021, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate