

By: Sparks

S.C.R. No. 7

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The life of an admired rancher, businessman, and  
2 civic leader drew to a close with the passing of James Ratliff Hurt  
3 Sr. of Ector County on November 2, 2023, at the age of 93; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Mary Ratliff Hurt and Sam Fuqua Hurt Sr.,  
5 "Buzz" Hurt was born on April 29, 1930, in Austin; he and his  
6 brother, Sam, grew up on the ranch founded by their grandparents in  
7 northeastern Ector County, and it remained his home for most of his  
8 life; after graduating from Odessa High School, he attended The  
9 University of Texas at Austin until his father's death in 1950, when  
10 he returned home to manage Ratliff Ranch; he played an active role  
11 in developing the petroleum reserves under his land and ran  
12 numerous companies, among them Z-Bar Ranch and Cattle Company,  
13 Ratliff Ranch Development Company, PBP Fabrication, Incorporated,  
14 and Eureka Prospecting Company; and

15           WHEREAS, Mr. Hurt wed Freddie Jean Wheeler in 1950, and they  
16 were blessed with four children, Mary Helen, Jay, Joe, and Sally; in  
17 1983, he married the former Betsy Triplett, and during their  
18 39-year marriage, they enjoyed their common interests of travel,  
19 serving their community, and caring for their many dogs and cats; a  
20 skilled baker of artisanal bread, Mr. Hurt delighted in giving away  
21 loaves and teaching others the craft; he was also a talented  
22 aviator, competing in aerobatics and earning recognition as a  
23 Master Pilot from the Federal Aviation Administration; and

24           WHEREAS, Furthering his family's tradition of civic

1 engagement, Mr. Hurt served as a charter member of the Ector County  
2 Airport board and a trustee of the Ector County Independent School  
3 District; he volunteered with such organizations as the Sandhills  
4 Hereford and Quarter Horse Show and Championship Rodeo, the Ector  
5 County Livestock Show, and Globe of the Great Southwest; in  
6 addition, he and his family donated land for Ratliff Stadium,  
7 Ratliff Ranch Golf Links, the Bridge United Methodist Church, City  
8 of Odessa Fire Station No. 9, and three roadway rights-of-way; he  
9 was named the 1985 Heritage of Odessa Community Statesman for  
10 Ranching, and he and Betsy Hurt were named the 1996 Citizens of the  
11 Year by the Odessa Chamber of Commerce and 2020 Friend of the Arts  
12 honorees by Odessa Arts; Mr. Hurt was a member of Wesley United  
13 Methodist Community Group and brought communion bread to the group  
14 the day before he died; and

15 WHEREAS, Deeply dedicated to his family and his community,  
16 Buzz Hurt earned the lasting respect and admiration of all who were  
17 privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
19 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of James Ratliff  
20 Hurt Sr. and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family:  
21 to his wife of 39 years, Betsy Hurt; to his children, Mary Helen  
22 Johnson, Joseph Stewart Hurt and his wife, Sherry, and Sally Beth  
23 Bolton and her husband, Toya; to Vickie Hurt, the widow of his son,  
24 Jay; to his 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; and to his  
25 other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

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1 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
2 Buzz Hurt Sr.