

By: Howard

H.R. No. 310

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the
2 passing of former state representative James Parker McCollough of
3 Austin on October 31, 2024, at the age of 74; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of J. C. McCollough and Norma Jim Cornett
5 McCollough, Parker McCollough was born in Amarillo on October 18,
6 1950, and he grew up with three sisters, Randa, Kay, and Gail; he
7 attended South Plains College on a track scholarship and
8 transferred to Texas Tech University, where he earned a bachelor's
9 degree in business and a law degree; during summers, he expanded his
10 horizons by working at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado, and selling
11 textbooks across the eastern United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. McCollough joined a Georgetown law firm, and
13 while raising his two oldest children, he became involved in the
14 local community; he frequently worked on a pro bono basis and served
15 as a public defender and municipal judge; in addition, he refereed
16 high school football games and ran the clock at Southwestern
17 University basketball games; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1988, Mr. McCollough won election to the Texas
19 House of Representatives; he served as chair of the Criminal
20 Jurisprudence Committee and the Judicial Affairs Subcommittee on
21 Budget and Oversight, and he was a member of the Redistricting
22 Committee and the Task Force on State and Local Drug Control; having
23 developed a love of politics, public policy, and
24 relationship-building, he became a regulatory lobbyist following

1 his two terms in office; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. McCollough met the former Rhonda Puls at the
3 State Capitol, and they married on June 23, 1991; the couple became
4 the proud parents of two children, and Mr. McCollough enjoyed
5 coaching Little League teams, instilling a reverence for the game
6 along with great enthusiasm; deeply patriotic, he always cried
7 while singing the national anthem and took each of his children to
8 witness the peaceful transition of power at a presidential
9 inauguration; he helped them register to vote and brought them to
10 the polls as well; above all, he taught them to enjoy life to the
11 fullest and enable others to do the same; his relationships and his
12 faith were informed by his profound commitment to Alcoholics
13 Anonymous, and he attended a men's meeting at a local church every
14 Saturday; during 22 years of sobriety, he served as a sponsor for
15 countless people, always making himself available to those who
16 needed his support; and

17 WHEREAS, Although Parker McCollough is greatly missed, those
18 who held him dear will forever remember the warmth and compassion
19 that he brought into their lives; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable James
22 Parker McCollough and extend sincere sympathy to his loved ones: to
23 his wife, Rhonda McCollough; to his children, Cory (Jaime
24 Villanueva), James (Audra Sharifi Isfahani), Murphy (Kolton
25 McDougald), and Chandler (John Holt); to his grandchildren, Lucia,
26 Anna, CJ, and Coco; to his sisters, Kay (Terry Milligan) and Gail;
27 and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Parker
4 McCollough.