

By: Hall, Eckhardt

S.C.R. No. 32

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Justin Dart Jr. made a lasting, positive difference
2 in the lives of countless Americans through his work to empower
3 people with disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1930, Justin Dart
5 contracted polio in 1948; he found his purpose after beating a grim
6 prognosis of imminent death; his legs paralyzed, he relied on a
7 wheelchair for mobility and gained a deep understanding of the
8 challenges faced by others as well; after graduating from the
9 University of Houston, where he earned both a bachelor's degree and
10 a master's degree in history, he embarked on a business career; and

11 WHEREAS, After working with Tupperware Japan, Mr. Dart
12 settled in Texas in 1974, and six years later, he was named to the
13 Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities; he served as its
14 inaugural chair, and in 1981, he was also appointed vice chair of
15 the National Council on Disabilities by President Ronald Reagan;
16 the council drafted a policy to end centuries of discrimination,
17 laying the groundwork for the Americans with Disabilities Act; at
18 the end of the decade, as chair of the Congressional Task Force on
19 the Rights and Empowerment of Americans with Disabilities, Mr. Dart
20 helped craft the language of the ADA; he then barnstormed across the
21 country to galvanize support for the legislation, visiting each
22 state five times and addressing crowds in his trademark cowboy hat
23 and boots; President George H. W. Bush signed the ADA into law on
24 July 26, 1990; and

1 WHEREAS, Along the way, Mr. Dart further served as
2 commissioner of the Education Department's Rehabilitation Service
3 Administration, as chair of the president's Committee on Employment
4 of People with Disabilities, as president-elect of the National
5 Rehabilitation Association, and as a member of the National Council
6 on Disability; in 1998, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of
7 Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor; he died on June 22,
8 2002, at the age of 71; and

9 WHEREAS, Often called one of the fathers of the ADA, Justin
10 Dart was widely known for his rallying cry, "Lead On!"; his
11 visionary activism effected transformative change for people with
12 disabilities, and it would be most fitting to name the new transit
13 amenity center at 207 W. 14th Street in the Capitol Complex the
14 "Lead On! Transit Amenity" in his honor; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
16 hereby direct the Texas Facilities Commission to name the new
17 transit amenity center at 207 W. 14th Street in the Capitol Complex
18 the "Lead On! Transit Amenity" in honor of Justin Dart; and, be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
21 copy of this resolution to the chair and executive director of the
22 Texas Facilities Commission.