

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 689

In Memory
of
Douglas Sapp

WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the passing of Douglas Mitchel Sapp of Longview on March 21, 2025, at the age of 82; and

WHEREAS, Doug Sapp was born in Crestview, Florida, on January 5, 1943; he married Lanette Sapp in the early 1980s, and the couple shared a fulfilling union that spanned more than four decades; he took great pride in their daughters, Sharon and Reagan, and with the passing years, he had the pleasure of seeing his treasured family grow to include 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sapp worked in the circulation departments of newspapers in Florida, Beaumont, and Palestine, before moving with his family to Longview and serving as circulation manager of the *Longview News-Journal*; and

WHEREAS, A man of strong faith, Mr. Sapp embraced a calling to the "ministry of laughter" in 1972 and embarked on a joyful 53-year career as a clown and magician; he began by playing Ronald McDonald for a local McDonald's franchise, and he later adopted his favorite alias, Happy T. Clown; over the years, he delighted generations of East Texans performing as Happy at various community events, including the Great Pumpkin Roll, the Longview Kite Festival, and the Wonderland of Lights in Marshall; he frequently lent his services to nonprofits benefiting children and individuals with disabilities, and he brought joy and laughter to the lives of many of Longview's elderly residents with regular performances at local nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to his community, Mr. Sapp volunteered with Greater Longview Young Life, Buckner Children and Family Services, and Camp Buckner, and he was a member of the Judson Lions Club and the Fellowship of Christian Magicians; and

WHEREAS, Doug Sapp brightened the world for all who knew him, and the citizens of Longview were fortunate indeed to count him among their fellow residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Douglas Mitchel Sapp and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Doug Sapp.

Hughes

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 1, 2025, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate