

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 689

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 Douglas Mitchel Sapp of Longview on March 21, 2025, at
3 the age of 82; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, A man of strong faith, Mr. Sapp embraced a calling
16 to the "ministry of laughter" in 1972 and embarked on a joyful
17 53-year career as a clown and magician; he began by playing Ronald
18 McDonald for a local McDonald's franchise, and he later adopted his
19 favorite alias, Happy T. Clown; over the years, he delighted
20 generations of East Texans performing as Happy at various community
21 events, including the Great Pumpkin Roll, the Longview Kite
22 Festival, and the Wonderland of Lights in Marshall; he frequently
23 lent his services to nonprofits benefiting children and individuals
24 with disabilities, and he brought joy and laughter to the lives of

1 many of Longview's elderly residents with regular performances at
2 local nursing homes; and

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

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

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

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