

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 700

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an admired lawmaker and philanthropist
2 drew to a close with the passing of former state representative and
3 state senator Murray Watson Jr. of Mart on July 24, 2018, at the age
4 of 86; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Mart on May 14, 1932, Murray Watson was the
6 son of Murray Watson Sr. and Ethel Bryson Watson; he worked at the
7 family feed store as a boy and completed his bachelor's and law
8 degrees at Baylor University; when he was only 24, he won election
9 to the Texas House of Representatives, and following three terms,
10 he was elected to the Texas Senate from District 13, which included
11 McLennan, Bell, Milam, Falls, and Limestone Counties; he became
12 Senate president pro tempore in the 61st Legislature, and over the
13 course of a decade in office, he served as chair of several
14 committees, including Environment, Insurance, Preschool Education
15 Standards, Legislative, Congressional, and Judicial Districts, and
16 State Departments and Institutions; among the many important pieces
17 of legislation that he carried, he took greatest pride in the bill
18 that enabled the establishment of Texas State Technical College;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Watson returned to practicing law in 1973, and
21 for 26 years, he was general counsel for the Texas State College
22 system; following his retirement, he remained a staunch supporter
23 of the institution, which named its student recreation center in
24 his honor; he was instrumental in the establishment of two

1 nonprofits that helped students secure loans, the Brazos Higher
2 Education Authority and Brazos Higher Education Service Authority,
3 and he was CEO of both; moreover, he was a trustee of the McLennan
4 Community College Foundation and a tremendous benefactor of his
5 alma mater; although he tried to keep his generosity quiet, in 2017,
6 he was named Baylor Lawyer of the Year; he was a member of the Baylor
7 Law Alumni Association, the Baylor Bear Foundation, and the Baylor
8 Founders Club; and

9 WHEREAS, Even while serving in the legislature, Mr. Watson
10 continued to help out at Watson Feed Store on Saturdays to stay in
11 touch with his fellow citizens; he also owned and ran the family
12 ranch and cattle operation; a valued member of the business
13 community, he was a Paul Harris Fellow in the Rotary Club of Waco,
14 and he was active in Masonry for more than six decades; he belonged
15 to Austin Avenue United Methodist Church; and

16 WHEREAS, Above all, Mr. Watson was devoted to his family; he
17 shared a rewarding marriage of nearly 59 years with his wife, Greta
18 Warren Watson, and he was the proud father of Marcus and Milicent
19 and grandfather of Annika and Niklas; and

20 WHEREAS, Murray Watson made a positive difference in the
21 lives of countless Texans through his passion for helping others
22 and his commitment to higher education, and he will be remembered
23 with deep admiration and affection by all who were fortunate enough
24 to know him; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable
27 Murray Watson Jr. and extend sincere sympathy to his loved ones;

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1 and, be it further

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