

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The passing of the Honorable Leighton Marion Cornett  
2 of Paris, Texas, on January 1, 2003, at the age of 86, has deeply  
3 saddened the family and many friends of this esteemed Texas native;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Born on November 1, 1916, in the Mabry community  
6 near Clarksville, he was valedictorian of the Clarksville High  
7 School Class of 1933; he enrolled at Paris Junior College, where he  
8 served as a student assistant for the government and history  
9 professor, and graduated from The University of Texas School of  
10 Law; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Cornett answered his country's call to arms  
12 during World War II, attaining the rank of captain in the United  
13 States Army; and

14           WHEREAS, A devoted family man, he was married, until their  
15 passing, to the former Ruth Moore for over 50 years and to the  
16 former Crystal Milford Polk for 7 years; he took great pride in his  
17 two children, four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren;  
18 and

19           WHEREAS, Mr. Cornett served in the Texas Legislature, where  
20 he was the youngest member at the time, and also held the posts of  
21 county attorney and district attorney for Lamar County and first  
22 assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas; over the  
23 course of his distinguished legal career he was a partner in several  
24 firms, including Cornett, Echols & Biard; and

1           WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Cornett gave generously of his time  
2 and energy to his community, to veterans organizations, and to  
3 professional associations; he chaired the Paris Junior College  
4 Board of Regents and held leadership positions in the Paris  
5 Founders Lions Club, Lions 2X2, American Legion, Lamar County Bar  
6 Association, and Northeast Texas Bar Association; he was also a  
7 valued member of the Paris Jaycees, Lamar County Democrats,  
8 Disabled American Veterans, and Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

9           WHEREAS, During his leisure time, he enjoyed quail hunting,  
10 fishing, and raising registered quarter horses, and he was a past  
11 president and life member of the Paris Rodeo and Horse Club; and

12           WHEREAS, Those who were privileged to know Mr. Cornett will  
13 long remember his devotion to his family, his profession, and the  
14 Lone Star State, and the memory of his gentle spirit will long warm  
15 the hearts of his many admirers; now, therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
17 hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Leighton Marion  
18 Cornett and extend sincere sympathy to his children, Debra Usry and  
19 her husband, Lloyd, and Guy Cornett and his wife, Diane; to his  
20 grandchildren, Sherry and Stephen Cornett, Jillian Benedict, and  
21 Charlie Usry and his wife, Barbara; to his great-grandchildren,  
22 Carle and Taylor Usry, Lucas and Shawna Simpson, and Ashton  
23 Benedict; to his brother, James Cornett, and his wife, Frances; and  
24 to all those who mourn the passing of this beloved man; and, be it  
25 further

26           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

- 1 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
- 2 Leighton Marion Cornett.

Homer

David Newburn

President of the Senate

Joe Conaway

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 8 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 6, 2003.

Robert Haney  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 8 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the Senate on May 7, 2003.

Datsy Law  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 20 MAY '03

Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
5:10pm O'CLOCK

MAY 20 2003  
Ann Shea  
Secretary of State