

By: Gerdes

H.R. No. 1494

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joyful times and  
2 meaningful accomplishments remain to comfort the family and friends  
3 of William Albert Swinney Sr., who passed away on April 20, 2023, at  
4 the age of 99; and

5 WHEREAS, The son of James R. Swinney and Bessie Garner  
6 Swinney, Bill Swinney was born in Rogers on July 8, 1923, and grew  
7 up with a younger brother, Robert, and sister, Garnett; during the  
8 Great Depression, the family moved frequently between ranches and  
9 small towns in Central Texas and Mississippi, and as the oldest  
10 child, Mr. Swinney took on enormous responsibility; nevertheless,  
11 he graduated as president of his high school class; during World  
12 War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps as soon as he was of  
13 age, and he served as a waist gunner on a B-24 Liberator bomber in  
14 the Pacific Theater; he went on to attend the University of  
15 Mississippi and studied law in Texas before embarking on an  
16 entrepreneurial path; after decades as a general contractor, he  
17 focused on land development and real estate; not a believer in  
18 retirement, he worked as long as he was able; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1948, he married the former Marjorie June  
20 Gustafson, and they were blessed with six children; he encouraged  
21 them to share his enthusiasm for fitness by creating an extensive  
22 backyard playground on the family's seven-acre lot in San Antonio;  
23 the family also enjoyed water sports at their vacation house on Lake  
24 LBJ; on April 14, 1990, Mr. Swinney wed Brenda Kennedy, who

1 inspired him to read his Bible and become active in church again; in  
2 addition, they supported scholarships for students at a Christian  
3 school near their home; together, they adopted his  
4 great-grandchild, Scarlett; Mr. Swinney loved to hear his wife play  
5 hymns and marches on the piano and organ; an inspiration to others,  
6 the couple was profiled in the April 2023 edition of the Billy  
7 Graham Evangelistic Association's *Decision Magazine*; and

8 WHEREAS, Although Bill Swinney is deeply missed, he leaves  
9 behind a legacy of devotion to his family, his faith, and his  
10 country that his loved ones can remember with pride; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of William Albert  
14 Swinney Sr. and extend sincere condolences to the members of his  
15 family: to his wife, Brenda Swinney; to his children, William A.  
16 "Chip" Swinney Jr. and his wife, Phyllis, David Bruce Swinney,  
17 Scott Swinney and his wife, Patty, Brett James Swinney and his wife,  
18 Debbie, Karla Swinney Keahey and her husband, Robert, Kathleen  
19 Swinney Parker and her husband, Brad, and Scarlett Lee Parker  
20 Swinney; to his stepchildren, Jeff Kennedy and his wife, Brittney,  
21 and Scott Kennedy and his wife, Karen; to his 22 grandchildren and  
22 13 great-grandchildren; and to his many other relatives and  
23 friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William  
27 Albert Swinney Sr.