

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 612**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas takes pride in recognizing the Honorable W. E. "Pete" Snelson, former senator and Dean of the Senate, on the grand occasion of his 90th birthday, March 28, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Wallace Eugene Snelson was born on March 28, 1923, in the ranching community of Grandfalls; the sixth of seven children, he was known as "Sweetie" as a young child; when, at the age of five, he was sent to the local barbershop for a haircut and would not tell the new barber his name, the barber took matters into his own hands and gave him the name Pete, by which he has been known ever since; Pete Snelson went on to graduate at the age of 15 as salutatorian of his Grandfalls-Royalty High School class and to later become one of the most distinguished members of the Texas Senate; and

**WHEREAS**, Shortly after his 20th birthday, Pete Snelson joined the United States Army, and he served his country during World War II in the European theater; he was wounded in the early days of the Alsace Campaign, received a Bronze Star for his courageous service, and was selected to serve as a special agent of the Counter Intelligence Corps; and

**WHEREAS**, Pete Snelson graduated from The University of Texas at El Paso, earned a master's degree from Northwestern University, and served as a teacher at high school and university levels; he became a highly respected community leader in Midland and was active in numerous civic organizations; he was noted for his outstanding service as president of the Texas Jaycees; and

**WHEREAS**, He was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1960 and to the Texas Senate in 1964; he served with distinction in the Senate for 16 years and was the longtime senator for District 25, which then included 35 counties and was the largest state senate district in the country; during his tenure, Senator Snelson served as chairman of the Education Committee and was a longtime member of the Legislative Budget Board and the Senate Finance Committee; he served as president pro tempore in 1971 and 1972; he was serving as Dean of the Senate when he retired from the legislature in 1983; and

**WHEREAS**, While serving in the Senate, he earned the widespread admiration and highest regard of his colleagues; he was an insightful politician and an effective lawmaker who was respected for his good judgment and solid leadership; Senator Snelson later became an independent legislative consultant in Austin and handled legislative affairs for the Texas Association of Community Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Snelson is devoted to his family and has been noted throughout his life for his unquestionable integrity and his dedication to his work as a public servant; he is an exemplary gentleman who has consistently upheld the highest of standards in his personal and professional life and has served his state and country with honor and distinction; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby pay tribute to W. E. "Pete" Snelson for his exceptional service in the Texas Legislature and his many contributions to his state and country and extend to him

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congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of his 90th birthday; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of Senator Snelson and as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Whitmire

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 8, 2013.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate