

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

In Memory
of
Joe Willard Kirven

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Joe Willard Kirven, who died July 5, 2021, at the age of 90; and

WHEREAS, Joe Kirven was born on June 5, 1931; he was a standout athlete at Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas, and he attended Wiley College on an athletic scholarship; after his graduation, he acquired the first of his many successful businesses, ABCO Maintenance, with only \$500 in capital; and

WHEREAS, He built ABCO Maintenance into a multimillion dollar company, and he later expanded his business interests to include real estate and a chemical company; he became one of the first African American millionaires in Dallas; and

WHEREAS, Noted for his enthusiasm for giving back to his community, Joe was active in a wide range of civic organizations, notably in the field of education; he was on the board of trustees of the Hockaday School and of the University of North Texas, and a scholarship was named in his honor at his alma mater, Wiley College; he also served on the boards of the Dallas Historical Society, the Dallas Independent School District, Park South YMCA, and the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, He was active in the political arena and served on the Dallas City Council; he was a special assistant to Governor Bill Clements, and he was engaged in steering qualified black candidates to appointments to state commissions; he was a member of President Richard Nixon's Advisory Council for Minority Enterprise, and he was invited to participate in President Jimmy Carter's Conference on Minority Business; and

WHEREAS, He was a man of wisdom, strength, and determination who gave unselfishly to others, and his commitment to public service and his enthusiasm for living each day to the fullest will long be a source of inspiration for all who were privileged to share in his life; and

WHEREAS, He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and countless friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Joe Willard Kirven: his beloved wife, Gloria Foster Kirven; his daughter, Josette Kirven Valtierra; and his grandsons, Gregory Valtierra IV and Michael Valtierra; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Joe Kirven.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 22, 2021, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate