

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 1815

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life of meaningful service drew to a close with the
2 death of former state representative Tony James Goolsby of Dallas
3 on September 4, 2020, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on November 9, 1933, Tony Goolsby was raised by
5 Thelma and Herman Ross in Longview, and he grew up with two
6 siblings, Eddie and Marsha; answering his nation's call to duty, he
7 served in the U.S. Army, and he went on to earn a bachelor's degree
8 in education from the University of North Texas, where he was a
9 member of the Theta Chi fraternity; he worked as a teacher, coach,
10 principal, and pharmaceutical sales representative until he
11 started an insurance agency in the 1980s, running it for more than
12 two decades; he served as president of the Independent Insurance
13 Agents of Dallas, as head of political actions for the Independent
14 Insurance Agents of Texas, and as a board member of Pavillion Bank;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, In 1988, Mr. Goolsby was elected to the Texas House
17 of Representatives, and he served the citizens of North Dallas and
18 Richardson for 20 years; a leader in the house, he was a strong
19 supporter of efforts to protect victims of sexual assault, extend
20 the reach of Amber Alerts, protect consumers from unwanted
21 solicitations, make identity theft a state crime, cut taxes on
22 small businesses, and make higher education more accessible,
23 including allowing senior citizens to audit college courses at no
24 cost; known for signing everything in a shade of ink that came to be

1 known as "Goolsby green," he served as chair of the House
2 Administration Committee and as vice chair of the Higher Education
3 Committee; dedicated to making sure the house ran smoothly and that
4 everyone was treated fairly, he made many friends during his
5 tenure, and a number of items from his personal collection remain on
6 view at the Legislative Reference Library; and

7 WHEREAS, Representative Goolsby's many honors over the
8 course of his career included recognition and awards from the
9 Dallas Police Association, North Texas State University, Longview
10 High School, the Texas Chamber of Commerce, the Texas Realtors
11 Association, and the Texas Pediatric Society; and

12 WHEREAS, Following his service in the legislature,
13 Mr. Goolsby enjoyed a successful career as a lobbyist; he remained
14 close to his former legislative staffers, often sharing a meal to
15 offer advice and discuss the latest Capitol news, and he maintained
16 a warm friendship with former speaker of the house Pete Laney until
17 the end of his life; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Goolsby was a member of Lovers Lane United
19 Methodist Church for more than a half century, and he was serving as
20 an usher one Sunday morning when he met Toppo Tannery, who was late
21 for church; they were married in 1971 and shared a loving
22 relationship that spanned nearly five decades; they delighted in
23 traveling together to national parks, taking riverboat cruises in
24 Europe, spending Thanksgiving in Hawaii, and visiting their
25 granddaughters in California; in 2001, they dedicated the Goolsby
26 Chapel at the University of North Texas, and they also established
27 the Toppo and Tony Goolsby Family Trust Rangerette Scholarship at

1 Kilgore College; and

2 WHEREAS, Witty, warm, and generous, Tony Goolsby was a
3 devoted family man and a distinguished public servant, and his loss
4 is keenly felt by the numerous friends he made through the years and
5 by the countless people in Texas whose lives were made better by his
6 many achievements; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Tony
9 James Goolsby and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of his
10 family: to his wife, Toppo Goolsby; to his children, Mellie Mathis
11 and her husband, Chris Duncan, Cherrie Wysong and her husband, Jay,
12 and Brooke Welch and her husband, Sean; to his grandchildren,
13 Delaney and Riley Welch; to his sister, Marsha Ross; and to his
14 other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
17 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tony
18 Goolsby.