

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 33

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to  
2 a close with the passing of Billy Bates Hedges of Quitman on May 31,  
3 2023, at the age of 84; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on September 19, 1938, Bill Hedges grew up in  
5 Little Rock, Arkansas, with two siblings, Jerry Lee and Harold; he  
6 attained the rank of Eagle Scout, and he was a member of the Class of  
7 1956 at Little Rock Central High School; after attending Hendrix  
8 College, he earned a history degree from Southern Methodist  
9 University and went on to graduate from the SMU Perkins School of  
10 Theology; and

11 WHEREAS, Embarking on a career as a United Methodist pastor  
12 that would span more than four decades, Mr. Hedges served at 20  
13 churches throughout East Texas; moreover, he was a Methodist  
14 Conference historian, president of the Texas United Methodist  
15 Historical Society, archivist for the South-Central Jurisdiction,  
16 and a member of the General Commission on Archives and History; he  
17 also held many local leadership roles with Rotary International,  
18 including chapter president and district governor; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Hedges shared a rewarding marriage with his  
20 first wife, the late Jane Hedges; he was fortunate enough to find  
21 love again with his second wife, Beth Robinson Hedges, who preceded  
22 him in death in 2015; he took great pride in his 3 children,  
23 Kathryn, Kent, and Rebecca, his 2 stepdaughters, Jill House and  
24 Jill Robinson, and his 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, A man of profound faith who dedicated himself to  
3 serving others, Bill Hedges will be deeply missed, and those who  
4 held him dear will forever remember the warmth and kindness he  
5 brought into their lives; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 1st  
7 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Billy Bates  
8 Hedges and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family:  
9 to his brother, Harold Hedges III, and his wife, Mary Helen; to his  
10 children, Kathryn Arata and her husband, Stephen, Kent Hedges and  
11 his wife, Jennifer, and Rebecca Matthews and her husband, Ross; to  
12 his stepdaughters, Jill House and her husband, Todd, and Jill Meil  
13 Robinson; to his grandchildren, Jeremy, Hannah, Julianna, Nick,  
14 Noah, Logan, Ellen, Olivia, Katie, Mary Claire, Ben, Adam, Madison,  
15 and Chloe; to his great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives  
16 and friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this  
19 day, it do so in memory of Bill Hedges.