

By: Hughes

S.R. No. 2

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life well lived may help to comfort  
2 those saddened by the passing of Jerry Strickland Harris of  
3 Longview on May 26, 2023, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, Jerry Harris was born in Marshall on March 4, 1935,  
5 to Ouida Lathem and James Colbert Harris; he was raised by his  
6 beloved aunt and uncle, Lula Belle and Exl Strickland, and he grew  
7 up with the companionship of a brother, Louis; a star athlete at  
8 Marshall High School, he earned a full scholarship to play football  
9 for Rice University, and he went on to receive the 1958 George  
10 R. Martin Award as the team's most valuable player; after  
11 graduating from Rice, he completed his studies at Baylor University  
12 School of Law in 1960; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Harris subsequently moved to Longview, and he  
14 eventually joined a local law firm where he practiced for more than  
15 six decades; along the way, he used his skills and legal acumen to  
16 help many clients and also served as a mentor to a number of  
17 aspiring attorneys; he continued to practice law up until his last  
18 days; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1961, Mr. Harris married Claire Roberts, and they  
20 were blessed with three children, Miriam, Melissa, and Houston;  
21 after that marriage ended, he was fortunate enough to find love  
22 again with Risa Horner Harris, with whom he shared the last four  
23 decades of his life; in his leisure time, he enjoyed outdoor  
24 activities like fishing, golfing, hunting, and skiing, and he had

1 many happy memories of spending summers in Colorado and taking  
2 fishing trips to Lake Cherokee and Caddo Lake; he was known as a  
3 dear friend and a trusted listener, and he was also blessed with a  
4 wonderful sense of humor and a keen ability to help others see their  
5 own potential; and

6 WHEREAS, Jerry Harris distinguished himself through his  
7 unwavering commitment to his profession and to his loved ones, and  
8 he leaves behind a legacy that will long be remembered; now,  
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 2nd  
11 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Jerry Strickland  
12 Harris and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to  
13 his wife, Risa Horner Harris; to his daughter, Miriam Jones, and her  
14 sons, Harris and Houston; to his daughter, Melissa McDonald, her  
15 husband, Scott, and their daughters and sons-in-law, Alexis and  
16 Scott Moody and Julia and Nolan Chumbley; to his son, Houston  
17 Harris, his wife, Dawn, and their children, Mary and Houston; to his  
18 stepson, James Singleton; to his great-grandson, Mac Moody; and to  
19 his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this  
22 day, it do so in memory of Jerry Harris.