

By: Darby

H.R. No. 30

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life lived with joy and purpose drew to a close
2 with the passing of Dewey Edward Pierce of San Angelo on August 9,
3 2023, at the age of 94; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Orville Winston Pierce and Ethel Irene
5 Adams Pierce, Dewey Pierce was born in Becker, Mississippi, on
6 March 7, 1929, and he grew up with three brothers, Junior, J. C.,
7 and Thomas; during World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy with
8 his older brother, adding a year to his age on the application
9 because he was only 17; he proudly served as a machinist mechanic on
10 the USS *Hooper Island* auxiliary ship in Japan; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Pierce's tour of duty ended in 1947, and he
12 borrowed \$100 from his uncle to move to San Angelo for a job
13 building the dam on the north side of town; there he met the love of
14 his life, the former Veva "Vicky" Lee Balkum, and after a
15 three-month courtship, they wed in the town of Miles on September
16 15, 1950; early in their marriage, they traveled to Alabama,
17 Indiana, and Mississippi as Mr. Pierce looked for employment; they
18 lived with his parents while saving up for their return to San
19 Angelo, where he launched Pierce Paint Company in 1952; with skill
20 and diligence, he earned a reputation for excellence, and he
21 mentored many painters over the years, preparing them to go off on
22 their own; he decided to step away from his business at the age of
23 75, but one of his former employees asked to hire him, and he
24 continued to set the standard for younger workers for nine more

1 years until his retirement; and

2 WHEREAS, A valued member of Immanuel Baptist Church,
3 Mr. Pierce served on numerous committees and assisted in many
4 projects, and he was named a Deacon Emeritus; in his leisure hours,
5 he enjoyed bowling, but his favorite pastime was playing poker and
6 other games with his treasured family; he and his wife shared a
7 fulfilling relationship until her passing in 2016, and he was
8 devoted to his daughters, Janis and Sandra, and to his five
9 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren; loyal, kind, and
10 playful, he brightened the days of those around him with his
11 signature jokes and contagious laughter; and

12 WHEREAS, Although Dewey Pierce is deeply missed, his zest for
13 life will remain a source of inspiration to all who were privileged
14 to share in his love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
17 of Dewey Edward Pierce and extend sincere sympathy to the members of
18 his family: to his daughters, Janis Baucom and her husband, Jim, and
19 Sandra Love; to his grandchildren, Joshua, Kasi, Pierce, Jade, and
20 Krystee; to his great-grandchildren, Aidon, Celes, Kadin, Matthew,
21 Riley, Rogue, and Adalyn; and to his many other relatives and
22 friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dewey
26 Pierce.