

By: Price

H.R. No. 82

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the
2 passing of admired attorney and civic leader James Reed Lovell of
3 Amarillo on July 4, 2023, at the age of 96; and

4 WHEREAS, The oldest son of Benjamin Reed Lovell and Reta
5 Eudora Poovey Lovell, Jim Lovell was delivered at home in Ashtola on
6 April 8, 1927, with the help of his grandmother, Johnnie Mae
7 Blackburn Poovey, the local midwife; he grew up with the loving
8 guidance of his parents and both his maternal and paternal
9 grandparents; along with his brother, Joe Thomas, he worked and
10 played at the Lovells' combination service station, grist mill,
11 country store, and post office; he graduated as president of
12 Clarendon High School's Class of 1944 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy
13 at the end of World War II; following basic training in San Diego,
14 he served on shore patrol in the Philippines; his duties included
15 guarding men under court-martial, and his observations of military
16 lawyers inspired his career choice following his honorable
17 discharge in 1946; and

18 WHEREAS, The G.I. Bill enabled Mr. Lovell to become a
19 first-generation college student; he attended Clarendon Junior
20 College and Southern Methodist University, where he earned both his
21 bachelor's degree in business administration and his law degree;
22 after establishing a solo law practice in Dumas, he formed a
23 partnership with Hugh T. Lyle in 1953; although Mr. Lyle died in
24 1976, Mr. Lovell continued to call the firm Lovell & Lyle in honor

1 of his partner until 2016, when he moved to Amarillo to be closer to
2 family and medical care; he became of counsel to the firm of his
3 sons before fading eyesight obliged him to conclude his remarkable
4 69-year career; and

5 WHEREAS, Devoted to his profession, Mr. Lovell was a mentor
6 to many and held membership with numerous local, state, and
7 national associations; he was a director of the State Bar of Texas
8 for many years and served as chair of the State Bar of Texas
9 Insurance Trust; among other accolades, he received the 1979
10 President's Award and special recognition for his leadership in the
11 founding and continued operation of the Texas Lawyers' Insurance
12 Exchange; in order to launch the TLIE, he signed a personal bank
13 loan for \$165,000, and he served as president and chair of the board
14 for three decades; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Lovell was also an investor and developer of
16 farm and ranch land in the 1970s; initially enjoying considerable
17 success, he showed great tenacity, courage, and diligence as he
18 weathered the crushing interest rates and deflation of agricultural
19 land values in the 1980s; and

20 WHEREAS, Dedicated to Dumas and Moore Counties, Mr. Lovell
21 was highly engaged in civic life; for over 25 years, he was Dumas
22 city attorney, and he served other North Plains towns in this role
23 as well; he was a bank director in Dumas and Sunray, and he
24 completed multiple terms as a trustee of the Dumas Independent
25 School District; in 1975, he was appointed to the West Texas State
26 University Board of Regents, and he held the office of chair in
27 1978; he led the Dumas Chamber of Commerce, the Moore County

1 Development Corporation, and similar groups for many years and
2 spearheaded efforts to bring American Beef to the Schroeter
3 Industrial Park at Cactus; in addition, he was very active in local
4 politics; a man of deep faith, he was a valued member of First
5 Presbyterian Church of Dumas for seven decades and served as an
6 elder; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Lovell married his high school sweetheart, the
8 former Louva Hunt, in 1951, and they were blessed with eight
9 children, Lynrita, John, Jimmy, Joe, Jeff, Laura, Leslie, and
10 Jesse; he instilled in them good manners, a strong work ethic, and a
11 sense of responsibility while also encouraging them to find their
12 own paths; during summers, the Lovells broadened the horizons of
13 their offspring on road trips to 48 states, including Alaska; that
14 first marriage ended with three children still at home, and
15 Mr. Lovell saw to their upbringing; he sent all of his sons and
16 daughters through college; and

17 WHEREAS, Fortunate to find love a second time, Mr. Lovell met
18 Betty King through a friend and dancing class, and they wed on
19 December 28, 1991; the couple traveled extensively and enjoyed
20 spending time at the cabin they built on the Cimarron River in Ute
21 Park, New Mexico; they shared a fulfilling relationship until her
22 passing in 2014; in his later years, Mr. Lovell was surrounded by
23 the love of a fine family that grew to include many grandchildren
24 and great-grandchildren, as well as three stepdaughters and their
25 extended families; and

26 WHEREAS, Jim Lovell was an engaged citizen, a devoted family
27 man, and an admired member of the legal profession, and his

1 wide-ranging contributions will remain a lasting source of
2 inspiration to all who were fortunate enough to know him; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
5 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
6 James Reed "Jim" Lovell and extend sincere condolences to the
7 members of his family: to his children, Nita Dyslin, John H. Lovell,
8 Jim Lovell, Joe L. Lovell, Laura Taylor, Leslie Hawkins, and Jesse
9 Lovell; to his grandchildren, Johnny Lovell, Whitney Chairez,
10 Derrick Dyslin, Chad Dyslin, Esther Beagles, Rachel Lovell, Lindy
11 Waldrip, David Lovell, Heath Lovell, Ben Lovell, Bristen Rodriguez,
12 Nicole Blessen, Tiffany Vandergriff, Jace Bennett, Jancee Bennett,
13 Jayton Bennett, Matthew Hawkins, Andrew Hawkins, Michael Hawkins,
14 Mattie Kate Lovell, and Hunter Lovell; to his great-grandchildren,
15 Ashton, Brooklyn, Raygan, Jameson, Docia, Adi, Darcy, Brayden,
16 Berkeley, Celia, Caleb, Olivia, Samantha, CJ, Emmeline, Eleanor,
17 Caylor, Dayton, Finleigh, Reagan, Davey, Brooklyn, Baker, and
18 Maeve; to his stepdaughters, Carol Colunga, Linda Wolever, and
19 Jenny Zeller; to his step-grandchildren, Adriana Vincent, Ari
20 Wolever, Jiles Wolever, Lakin Wolever, Emma Zeller, and Evan
21 Zeller; to his step-great-grandchildren, Lily and Taya; to his
22 brother, Joe T. Lovell; and to his many other relatives and friends;
23 and, be it further

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