

By: Howard

H.R. No. 566

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable William Rayford Price of Austin, a
2 former Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, passed away
3 on February 21, 2023, at the age of 86, bringing a great loss to his
4 family and friends; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Jacksonville, Texas, on February 9, 1937,
6 Rayford Price was the son of Vaye Baker Price and Quanah Price, the
7 owner and publisher of the *Frankston Citizen*; he grew up with a
8 brother, Grady, and graduated as valedictorian of Frankston High
9 School; while attending Lon Morris College, he was elected student
10 body president; his knowledge of the printing trade then allowed
11 him to work his way through The University of Texas at Austin; in
12 1960, while still completing his law degree, he won election to the
13 Texas House of Representatives from Anderson County; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Price began serving in leadership positions in
15 his freshman year, when he was named chair of the Committee on
16 Contingent Expenses; over the course of six terms in office,
17 representing residents of Cherokee as well as Anderson County, he
18 served on numerous standing committees, and he chaired both State
19 Affairs and Constitutional Amendments; he was elected Speaker in
20 1972, and although the race was hotly contested, he earned plaudits
21 from former critics by implementing a series of reforms to
22 democratize the House, including a reorganization of standing
23 committees, the placement of various restraints on the power of
24 conference committees, and the implementation of a limited

1 seniority system; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1973, Mr. Price returned to private life; he
3 moved to Dallas and became a partner in the law firm eventually
4 known as Hutchison, Price, Boyle & Brooks; his practice focused on
5 municipal bond law; in 1982, he settled in Austin, where he founded
6 the firm of Rayford Price & Associates; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Price was supported in all his endeavors by the
8 love and encouragement of his wife of 61 years, Barbara Price, and
9 he was the devoted father of two sons, Brandon and Brett; warm and
10 generous, with an engaging smile for all, he mentored younger
11 leaders without regard to political affiliation; and

12 WHEREAS, While the death of Rayford Price brings great
13 sadness to his family and friends, he leaves behind a legacy that
14 will long be treasured by all those who held him dear; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of William Rayford
18 Price and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family:
19 to his wife, Barbara Ashley Price; to his sons, Brandon and Brett
20 Price; to his daughter in-law, Diana Martinez; and to all who mourn
21 his passing; and, be it further

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