

By: Troxclair

H.R. No. 2003

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an esteemed civic leader and legendary
2 football player drew to a close with the passing of Richard Preston
3 Ritchie on May 11, 2023, at the age of 68; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on May 2, 1955, in Mineral Wells, Richard
5 Ritchie was the son of John and Ann Ritchie; he gained national
6 acclaim on the gridiron during his years at Texas A&I University,
7 compiling a remarkable 39-0 record as the starting quarterback and
8 leading the Javelinas to undefeated seasons in 1974, 1975, and 1976
9 that yielded three Lone Star Conference crowns and three NAIA
10 Division I championships; named Most Valuable Player of the 1974
11 NAIA title game, he also garnered the 1975-1976 NAIA and LSC Player
12 of the Year honors; he graduated with a degree in education and
13 kinesiology in 1977, and he later created the Richard Ritchie
14 Endowment in support of the school's athletic programs; he was
15 inducted into the Javelina Hall of Fame, the LSC Hall of Honor, and
16 the College Football Hall of Fame, and he earned the Distinguished
17 Alumni Award for his continuing involvement with the university;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Ritchie went on to serve as an assistant
20 football coach at The University of Texas at Austin, the University
21 of North Texas, and Texas Tech University; after receiving his
22 juris doctor degree from St. Mary's University in 1991, he embarked
23 on his career as an attorney, following the tradition set by four
24 previous generations in his family; he joined his father's

1 practice, the Richard P. Ritchie Law firm in Mineral Wells, and he
2 was a prominent member of the community, serving as an attorney for
3 the Palo Pinto Water District and as a director of the First State
4 Bank of Mineral Wells and the Brazos Foundation; moreover, he was
5 president of the Noon Lions Club and captain of the Palo Pinto
6 County Sheriff's Posse, and he also distinguished himself as a
7 rancher, another occupation long pursued by the members of his
8 family; and

9 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Ritchie enjoyed the love
10 and support of his wife, Penny, his daughters, Leslie Kay and Lacie,
11 and his five grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, While the death of Richard Ritchie brings great
13 sadness to his loved ones, he leaves behind a legacy that will long
14 be treasured by all who held him dear; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Richard Preston
17 Ritchie and extend deepest condolences to the members of his
18 family: to his wife, Penny Ritchie; to his daughters, Leslie Kay
19 Ritchie Robnett and her husband, Kevin, and Lacie Ritchie Austin
20 and her husband, Matthew; to his grandchildren, Elisha, Cyrus,
21 Arleigh, Sky, and Sydney; and to his other relatives and friends;
22 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 Richard
26 Ritchie.