

By: Allen

H.R. No. 2383

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to  
2 a close with the death of the Reverend Monsignor Patrick Roland  
3 Wells of Houston on May 11, 2023, at the age of 92; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Luther and Stella Wells, Patrick Wells  
5 was born in Ames, Texas, on April 1, 1931; he served in the U.S. Air  
6 Force, rising to the rank of staff sergeant, and went on to pursue  
7 an academic career; after completing a doctorate in pharmaceutical  
8 science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he taught at Fordham  
9 University and became the first Black faculty member at the  
10 University of Nebraska-Lincoln's School of Pharmacy; he then served  
11 with distinction for many years as dean of the College of Pharmacy  
12 at Texas Southern University, and he was the editor of the Journal  
13 of the National Pharmaceutical Association and active in a number  
14 of professional organizations; and

15           WHEREAS, Following his retirement from TSU in 1990, Monsignor  
16 Wells earned a master of divinity degree from Sacred Heart School of  
17 Theology in Wisconsin; he was ordained as a priest in 1993 and  
18 served from then until 2006 as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi  
19 Catholic Church in Houston; known for his insightful, empathetic,  
20 and engaging sermons, he traveled the country to speak to Catholic  
21 groups, and he was dedicated to helping those in need beyond the  
22 church walls; he had a wonderful sense of humor and a rare ability  
23 to connect with people from all walks of life; and

24           WHEREAS, Monsignor Wells was a founding member of the Unity

1 Explosion-Houston Conference, focused on Black Catholic liturgy  
2 and ministry; moreover, he assisted Black Catholic seminarians in  
3 their vocation journeys; among other leadership roles, he was a  
4 consultant to the board of the National Black Catholic Apostolate  
5 for Life and a longtime member of the National Black Catholic Clergy  
6 Caucus and the Knights of Peter Claver; he was a chaplain for  
7 sailors and served in that capacity on cruise ships as well; his  
8 final assignment was at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in  
9 Port Isabel; in 2017, he retired to a priests' community; and

10 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to his religious calling, Monsignor  
11 Wells enriched the lives of innumerable people through his warmth,  
12 wisdom, and compassion, and his contributions will continue to be a  
13 source of inspiration for years to come; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Reverend  
16 Monsignor Patrick Roland Wells and extend sincere sympathy to the  
17 members of his family: to his son, Henry Gaddis, and his wife,  
18 Neyluz; to his grandchildren, Aziza Astrid, Xonzy, Henry, and  
19 Juliana; to his sister-in-law, Bennie Wells; and to his many other  
20 relatives and friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of the  
24 Reverend Monsignor Patrick Roland Wells.