

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 626

WHEREAS, The strength of our communities depends on the dedicated efforts of public officials, and over the years, Rod Ponton of Presidio has served the citizens of West Texas in a number of important roles; and

WHEREAS, A prominent lawyer with four decades of experience, Mr. Ponton has served as Presidio County attorney since 2017, and he is city attorney for the Cities of Alpine and Balmorhea; previously, Mr. Ponton was the 83rd District attorney, serving Brewster, Jeff Davis, Pecos, and Presidio Counties; he was also employed as city attorney for the Cities of Pecos and Presidio, and he served as chair of the West Pecos Management District; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponton is the founder of a private civil practice, Big Bend Law; the firm handles a wide range of matters for its clients, including real estate transactions, civil litigation, family law, probate law, and estate planning; and

WHEREAS, Early in his career, Mr. Ponton worked in criminal defense law in El Paso; he successfully represented Henry Lee Lucas in one of the state's most high-profile capital murder cases, and in 1987, he was named the Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ponton grew up in Alpine; after receiving his bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1973, he went on to graduate from the Texas Tech University School of Law in 1982; and

WHEREAS, Now forever renowned as "the Cat Lawyer," Mr. Ponton appeared in a Zoom call video that went viral in February

2021, when he proclaimed for what would become a global audience, "I'm here live, I'm not a cat," as a wayward filter imposed the image of a kitten over his face; this led to an interview on television's TODAY show and other major media coverage; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, Rod Ponton has demonstrated a deep commitment to the legal profession and to public service, and his accomplishments have earned the admiration and appreciation of his fellow West Texas residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby honor Rod Ponton for his contributions to West Texas and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mr. Ponton as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Gutierrez, Blanco

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 22, 2023.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate