

By: Gutierrez, Blanco

S.R. No. 626

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Early in his career, Mr. Ponton worked in criminal
17 defense law in El Paso; he successfully represented Henry Lee Lucas
18 in one of the state's most high-profile capital murder cases, and in
19 1987, he was named the Criminal Defense Lawyer of the Year by the
20 State Bar of Texas; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Ponton grew up in Alpine; after receiving his
22 bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1973, he
23 went on to graduate from the Texas Tech University School of Law in
24 1982; and

1 WHEREAS, Now forever renowned as "the Cat Lawyer," Mr. Ponton
2 appeared in a Zoom call video that went viral in February 2021, when
3 he proclaimed for what would become a global audience, "I'm here
4 live, I'm not a cat," as a wayward filter imposed the image of a
5 kitten over his face; this led to an interview on television's TODAY
6 show and other major media coverage; and

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Mr. Ponton as an expression of high regard by the Texas
16 Senate.