

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 681

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Judge Jack Pope is marking a special milestone in  
2 his life as he celebrates his 90th birthday; and

3           WHEREAS, Judge Pope continues to devote himself to a life of  
4 dedicated service to his family, friends, and to the entire state of  
5 Texas; and

6           WHEREAS, Judge Pope has been a proud Texan his entire life  
7 beginning with his birth in Abilene on April 18, 1913, as the son of  
8 Dr. and Mrs. A.J. Pope; he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at  
9 Abilene Christian University in 1934 and then received a law degree  
10 from the University of Texas in 1937; and

11           WHEREAS, Judge Pope began his career as an attorney before  
12 serving two years in the United States Navy during World War II; he  
13 became the judge of the 94th district court in Corpus Christi at the  
14 age of 33, the youngest district court judge in Texas at the time;  
15 he later was elected to serve as justice of the Court of Civil  
16 Appeals in San Antonio; then in 1964 he was elected to the Texas  
17 Supreme Court and was appointed in 1982 by Governor William P.  
18 Clements, Jr. as the Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court, an  
19 office which he held for three years before retiring in 1985 -  
20 serving a total of 28 years on the bench; and

21           WHEREAS, he has written more than 1,000 judicial opinions and  
22 his efforts to simplify the process of submitting a case to the jury  
23 have been widely applauded. His opinions regarding water,  
24 property, and tort law stabilized many parts of the Texas law. In a

1 classic opinion written in the 1950s, he traced Texas water rights  
2 back to Spain - earning him the name by some as the "Father of Texas'  
3 Water Rights;" and

4 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Pope has continuously served his alma  
5 mater, Abilene Christian University, as a distinguished member of  
6 the Board of Trustees beginning in 1954 and as a Senior Board Member  
7 beginning in 1983; and

8 WHEREAS, he received the highest honor his alma mater bestows  
9 in 1964 when he was named Outstanding Alumnus of the Year at Abilene  
10 Christian University; and

11 WHEREAS, he was honored by his colleagues and countless  
12 friends upon his retirement from the Texas Supreme Court with the  
13 establishment of an endowment fund at Abilene Christian University  
14 whereby young men and women complete a public service program as  
15 Jack Pope Fellows in order to serve throughout the world; and

16 WHEREAS, Judge Jack Pope has been able to engage in a lifetime  
17 of distinguished public service due to the support and  
18 encouragement from his loving wife, Allene, during a 64-year happy  
19 marriage; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the Texas House of  
21 Representatives honor Judge Jack Pope for his lifetime of service  
22 to the state of Texas on the celebration of his 90th birthday; be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Judge Pope, his wife, and children - A.J. and Allen, as  
26 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.