

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 883

In Memory
of
Benjamin Ellis Pickett, Sr.

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Benjamin Ellis Pickett, Sr., who died August 18, 2006, at the age of 86; and

WHEREAS, Ben Pickett was a highly decorated veteran of World War II and the first paid fire chief of Liberty; he led one of the best trained volunteer departments in the state for almost 30 years and founded the city's professional emergency medical services program; and

WHEREAS, He was born on December 28, 1919, to Mary Ellis Pickett and Ernest William Pickett; he attended the Shriner Institute in Kerrville and The University of Texas; during World War II, he was a captain in the United States Army Air Corps and flew 65 missions over France and Italy; he married Ellen Watson of Hull in 1949, and they had four children; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Liberty, he was dedicated to public service and revered for his quiet courage and his effective leadership; he joined the Liberty Fire Department as a volunteer when he was 13 years old, and he retired at the age of 68; he served on the city council from 1948 to 1951 and also served as a municipal judge and as Liberty's first police commissioner; in recognition of his many contributions to the city's fire department, the firefighting training center in Liberty was named in his honor; and

WHEREAS, After he retired, he taught himself to use a computer and applied his newly acquired skills in researching his family history and the history of his beloved hometown; and

WHEREAS, Ben Pickett was a generous and compassionate man noted for his warm sense of humor, his gentle manner, his keen insight, and his wise counsel; he was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured for years to come by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Benjamin Ellis Pickett, Sr., and extend sincere condolences to his bereaved family: his wife, Ellen; his son and daughter-in-law, Benjamin Ellis Pickett, Jr., and Deborah; his

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daughters and sons-in-law, Laura and Gary Calfee, Lisa and Clay Edmonds, and Amy and Neil Leibman; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Benjamin Ellis Pickett, Sr.

Williams

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 25, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate