

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1207

In Memory
of
Vernon C. Payne

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Vernon C. Payne, who died June 6, 2002, at the age of 88; and

WHEREAS, Vernon C. Payne was born February 14, 1914, in Scurry County to Bessie and E. C. Payne; one of 12 children, he grew up in West Texas on a cotton farm; and

WHEREAS, An outstanding athlete, he attended college on basketball scholarships at Tarleton State University and at Hardin-Simmons University, where he earned a bachelor's degree; he later went on to earn a master's degree from Texas Tech University; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Payne served his nation in the United States Army during World War II; he was a sergeant in the artillery, serving courageously and honorably in Italy and Africa; and

WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Payne went to Andrews, Texas, to become the high school basketball coach; he was recognized for his leadership abilities and was named principal of Andrews Junior High School in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Payne transformed Andrews Junior High School into a nationally recognized school by recruiting the best teachers and offering exciting course options and extracurricular activities; more than 40 members of his faculty went on to earn doctoral degrees, many becoming principals, deans, and college presidents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Payne was named a National Educator of the Year in 1966; active in civic affairs, he served as president of the Methodist Men at the First United Methodist Church and was a member of the Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Payne was devoted to his family: his wife and partner of 57 years, Thora Payne; his son, Doak; his daughter, Kippy; and his granddaughter, Kristy; he will be long remembered by all those whose lives he touched; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life and legacy of Vernon C. Payne; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the family of Vernon C. Payne as an expression of the esteem of the Texas Senate for this exceptional man.

Jackson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 27, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate