

By: Patrick

H.R. No. 391

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost a respected public servant
2 with the death of former state district court and court of appeals
3 judge Clyde Robert Ashworth of Arlington, who passed away on March
4 28, 2010, at the age of 87; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Kaufman, Clyde Ashworth was born on
6 March 7, 1923, to Judge Charles Ashworth and Lucy Nugent Ashworth;
7 he graduated from high school as president of his class, attended
8 The University of Texas at Austin, and went on to graduate from
9 North Texas Agricultural College; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1942, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served
11 his country with distinction in the South Pacific during World War
12 II; he attained the rank of sergeant and completed officer
13 candidate training, through which he attended Colgate University
14 for two semesters; commissioned a second lieutenant, he was
15 released from active duty in 1945 and continued his service in the
16 reserve; and

17 WHEREAS, Judge Ashworth began his distinguished legal career
18 after earning his bachelor's of business administration and law
19 degrees from Southern Methodist University; he opened his own
20 practice in Arlington in 1950 but was soon recalled to active duty
21 as a first lieutenant; assigned to legal duty, he attended the Naval
22 School of Military Justice and graduated with honors before working
23 as a prosecutor and defense counsel for General Courts Martial at
24 the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia; and

1 WHEREAS, Finishing his military service as a captain, Judge
2 Ashworth returned to Arlington in 1953 and established a successful
3 practice with Stewart Devore that grew to include six partners and
4 two associates; in November 1969, he earned appointment to the 67th
5 District Court, beginning an esteemed tenure that spanned 13 years;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Ashworth's outstanding work in behalf of his
8 fellow citizens led to his election to the Second Court of Appeals
9 in Fort Worth in 1982; he retired four years later, assuming the
10 status of senior judge, and continued to serve as a visiting justice
11 on both trial and appellate courts; he also worked with the law
12 firms of Jenks Garrett and Bruce Ashworth, his son, and later
13 established a mediation and arbitration practice that he managed
14 until his passing; and

15 WHEREAS, A leader in his profession, Judge Ashworth was
16 admitted to practice in all Texas state courts, the United States
17 District Court for the Northern District of Texas, the United
18 States Court of Military Appeals, and the United States Supreme
19 Court; he served as president of the Arlington Bar Association,
20 director of the Tarrant County Bar Association and the Tarrant
21 County Trial Lawyers Association, chair of the Tarrant County
22 Juvenile Board, and presiding judge of the Tarrant County Board of
23 District Judges; a sustaining life fellow for the Texas Bar
24 Foundation and charter sustaining life fellow for the Tarrant
25 County Bar Foundation, he was also a valued member of the District
26 XII Grievance Committee of the State Bar, the College of the State
27 Bar of Texas, and the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and

1 Professionalism; and

2 WHEREAS, Judge Ashworth contributed his leadership and
3 expertise as a director and chair of the Texas Turnpike Authority
4 and as president of the Arlington Independent School District from
5 1958 until 1969; moreover, he was a member of such worthwhile
6 organizations as the Arlington Chamber of Commerce and the Civitan,
7 Optimist, and Rotary Clubs of Arlington; and

8 WHEREAS, His exceptional efforts to benefit his fellow
9 citizens earned him a number of accolades through the years,
10 including the Silver Gavel Award for distinguished judicial service
11 from the Tarrant County Bar Association and the dedication of a
12 local elementary school in his honor; and

13 WHEREAS, A congregant of Arlington First United Methodist
14 Church for seven decades, Judge Ashworth served his community of
15 faith as president of the Methodist Men, Sunday school teacher and
16 superintendent, and usher captain, and as a member of the trustees,
17 official, and administrative boards; and

18 WHEREAS, Judge Ashworth enjoyed the support of a loving
19 family in all of his endeavors; he shared 50 years of marriage with
20 Ira Ashworth, with whom he raised five children, and after her
21 passing, he was fortunate to find love a second time with Juanita
22 Phillips, whom he married in 2002; and

23 WHEREAS, Clyde Ashworth was a true asset to his community,
24 his country, and his profession, and his deep commitment to
25 fairness and justice will continue to resonate in countless lives
26 for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Clyde
2 Ashworth and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family:
3 to his wife, Juanita Ashworth; to his children, Clyde R. "Bob"
4 Ashworth, Jr., Mark Nugent Ashworth and his wife, Brenda, Bruce
5 Alan Ashworth and his wife, Celeste, and Amy Elaine Ashworth; to his
6 grandchildren, Hamilton, Sage, Lindsay, Jean, Collin, Lucy, and
7 Allison; to his five stepchildren, Barbara Pace and her husband,
8 Jim, Britt Phillips and his wife, Janet, Lisa Phillips, Sally
9 Mycoskie and her husband, Cliff, and Sara Bishop and her husband,
10 Joe; to his step-grandchildren, Emily, Nicole, David, Brandon,
11 Claire, Jordan, Kate, Hunter, and Phillip; and to his other
12 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge Clyde
16 Ashworth.