

By: Branch

H.R. No. 891

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Jack Pope, a retired chief justice of
2 the Texas Supreme Court who has rendered immeasurable service to
3 the Lone Star State, is celebrating his 100th birthday on April 18,
4 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, Born and raised in Abilene, Chief Justice Pope knew
6 from the time he was a boy that he wanted to be a lawyer; as a youth,
7 he also showed the passion for learning that later marked his
8 distinguished career and that would make him an early proponent of
9 judicial education in Texas; a voracious reader, he found
10 inspiration in such figures as the Roman historian Tacitus and
11 orator Cicero and in the American legal scholars Roscoe Pound and
12 Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.; and

13 WHEREAS, After graduating from Abilene High School in 1930,
14 Jack Pope attended Abilene Christian College, where he majored in
15 speech, earned letters as a member of the debate and tennis teams,
16 and served as president of the junior class and the student
17 association; subsequently, at The University of Texas School of
18 Law, he served as editor of the *Texas Law Review*; and

19 WHEREAS, Licensed by the bar in 1937, Chief Justice Pope
20 moved to Corpus Christi and joined the firm of his uncle, former
21 state representative Walter E. Pope; he quickly gained wide-ranging
22 experience in civil and criminal law and in New Deal-era labor and
23 transportation regulatory law; and

24 WHEREAS, Though he was exempt from military service in World

1 War II because he was the father of two young children, Chief
2 Justice Pope enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1944 and served
3 stateside for the next two years; discharged in 1946, he returned to
4 the practice of law but later that year received an appointment as
5 judge of the 94th District Court and became, at the age of 33, the
6 youngest district judge then serving in Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1950, Chief Justice Pope won the first of three
8 consecutive terms on the Court of Civil Appeals in San Antonio;
9 during his tenure, he issued a landmark ruling concerning the
10 Spanish roots of Texas water law, establishing a precedent that
11 continues to guide jurists to the present day; and

12 WHEREAS, Elected to the Texas Supreme Court in 1964, Chief
13 Justice Pope helped to draft significant rulings on property rights
14 and judicial and procedural reform during his years as an associate
15 justice; in 1982, Governor Bill Clements appointed him chief
16 justice, an office he held until his retirement in 1985; his tenure
17 in that post was marked by the elimination of double appeals and by
18 other important reforms in court administration; at the time he
19 returned to private life, Chief Justice Pope's cumulative service
20 on the bench in trial and appellate courts made him the
21 longest-serving judge in the history of the Texas Supreme Court;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Known for the lucidity of his thought and writing,
24 he published more than 1,000 judicial opinions and over 70
25 law-related articles over the course of his career; and

26 WHEREAS, Since stepping down from the bench some 28 years
27 ago, Chief Justice Pope has continued to lead an active life; he has

1 served as president of the *Christian Chronicle* National Council, an
2 advisory body created to serve the international newspaper of the
3 Churches of Christ, coedited a volume about his ancestor John
4 Berry, a notable Texas pioneer, and cofounded the Texas Supreme
5 Court Historical Society, which has named him chair emeritus; and

6 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Pope credits Abilene Christian
7 University with providing an essential foundation for his success
8 in life, and in return for the invaluable lessons he learned there,
9 he has been one of that school's staunchest supporters; he joined
10 the ACU Board of Trustees in 1954 and for many years served on the
11 senior board; and

12 WHEREAS, In tribute to its esteemed graduate, ACU has
13 conferred on Chief Justice Pope its Outstanding Alumnus of the Year
14 award, as well as its Change the World award; moreover, since 1989,
15 the school has bestowed scholarships on outstanding students who
16 are intending to pursue a career in public service, designating
17 them as Jack Pope Fellows; and

18 WHEREAS, Another institution that has benefited from Chief
19 Justice Pope's active involvement is the State Law Library, which
20 was created as a separate state agency in 1971 largely through his
21 efforts; Chief Justice Pope has served as a member emeritus of the
22 Friends of the State Law Library Board of Directors, and the Friends
23 have recognized him and another former chief justice, the late Joe
24 Greenhill, with the establishment of the Greenhill-Pope Law Book
25 Fund; and

26 WHEREAS, Chief Justice Pope is the recipient of four honorary
27 degrees and countless other accolades; in 2009, the Texas Center

1 for Legal Ethics presented him with its first Chief Justice Jack
2 Pope Professionalism Award, and in 2010, the judicial section of
3 the State Bar of Texas honored him with its inaugural Judicial
4 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

5 WHEREAS, From their marriage in 1938 until her passing in
6 2004, Jack Pope and his wife, Allene, shared a richly rewarding
7 union; their family today includes two sons, Allen and Jackson
8 Pope, two grandsons, Drew and Ryan Pope, and two
9 great-grandchildren, Dylan and Peyton Locke; and

10 WHEREAS, Greatly admired for his intellect and integrity,
11 Chief Justice Pope has contributed significantly to jurisprudence
12 in the State of Texas, and it is indeed a privilege to join in
13 wishing him well on this special day; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Jack Pope on the
16 momentous occasion of his 100th birthday and extend to him profound
17 appreciation for his exemplary public service; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Chief Justice Pope as an expression of high regard by
20 the Texas House of Representatives.