

By: Smith

H.R. No. 1787

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, At 100 years of age, John Henderson is the oldest  
2 living football letterman of The University of Texas at Austin; and

3 WHEREAS, Born on December 24, 1912, John Henderson played for  
4 the Longhorns from 1933 to 1935, when the university had only 7,000  
5 students and Bevo was a relatively recent addition to the  
6 sidelines; wearing the number 35 jersey, he played both offense and  
7 defense, as most players did at that time, and he worked on campus  
8 to help pay for his tuition, room, and board, because the university  
9 did not offer football scholarships; and

10 WHEREAS, After graduating with his bachelor's degree in  
11 education, Mr. Henderson married his college sweetheart,  
12 Charlotte, and the couple moved to Port Arthur; he taught and  
13 coached at a local junior high school for three years before going  
14 to work for Humble Oil and Refining Company, which later became  
15 Exxon Mobil; Mr. Henderson was employed by the company for 36  
16 years, first in the controller's department and then as head of  
17 business services; and

18 WHEREAS, This lifelong UT fan is a charter member of the  
19 Longhorn Foundation fund-raising group that supports university  
20 athletics; he has loyally attended home football games over the  
21 course of six decades, often sitting with Mrs. Henderson in the  
22 25-yard-line seats that they first occupied in the 1960s; in 2009,  
23 the couple moved back to Austin to live in the Longhorn Village  
24 retirement community, where Mr. Henderson is widely considered the

1 "unofficial mayor"; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Henderson, who passed the century mark in 2012,  
3 stays fit by lifting weights and walking at least a mile each day;  
4 even now, eight decades after he first wore his Longhorn jersey, his  
5 weight is nearly the same as it was in his gridiron playing days;  
6 and

7 WHEREAS, A lifelong participant in the rich tradition of UT  
8 football, John Henderson is still proudly carrying on his duties as  
9 a Texas Ex, and he is a source of wisdom and inspiration to all who  
10 are privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby honor John Henderson, the oldest living football  
13 letterman of The University of Texas at Austin, and extend to him a  
14 hearty "Hook 'em Horns" and sincere best wishes for continued  
15 happiness; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Mr. Henderson as an expression of high regard by the  
18 Texas House of Representatives.