

By: Darby

H.R. No. 1911

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a gridiron legend drew to a close with
2 the passing on April 1, 2013, of renowned football player and coach
3 Jack Pardee; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on April 19, 1936, in Iowa, Jack Pardee was the
5 youngest of Earl and Lameda Pardee's six children; after the family
6 moved to Texas and settled in Christoval, Mr. Pardee worked in the
7 oil fields as a teenager and played football for the six-man team at
8 Christoval High School; during his senior season in 1952, he scored
9 57 touchdowns, helping the Cougars to become regional champions,
10 and he is considered one of the greatest six-man players in the
11 history of Texas high school athletics; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Pardee went on to attend Texas A&M University,
13 where he became one of Coach Bear Bryant's "Junction Boys," so named
14 for the Texas Hill Country town where the coach conducted a grueling
15 training camp in 1954; Mr. Pardee played three seasons for the
16 Aggies, serving as a captain in 1956, when the team was ranked fifth
17 in the nation, and the talented scholar-athlete was named an
18 All-American and Academic All-American; and

19 WHEREAS, Drafted by the National Football League's Los
20 Angeles Rams in 1957, Mr. Pardee played linebacker for the team
21 until 1964, when he briefly retired to receive treatment for
22 melanoma; he returned for five more seasons with the Rams, and he
23 finished his playing career with the Washington Redskins in 1972;
24 his 15 years in the league were highlighted by an exceptional season

1 in 1963, when he was named a first-team All-Pro player and took part
2 in the Pro Bowl; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Pardee continued his successful football career
4 by transitioning to coaching; he began by leading a World Football
5 League team, the Florida Blazers, then coached the Chicago Bears
6 from 1975 to 1977, guiding the team to the playoffs for the first
7 time since 1963; he took the helm with the Redskins from 1978 to
8 1980, and he was named NFL Coach of the Year by the Associated Press
9 in 1979; and

10 WHEREAS, After working for a season as an assistant coach
11 with the San Diego Chargers, he became head coach of the Houston
12 Gamblers of the U.S. Football League for two years before being
13 hired as the head coach for the University of Houston; during his
14 tenure at UH in the late 1980s, he installed the high-powered "run
15 and shoot" offense, and his team made NCAA history when it became
16 the first squad to finish with more than 1,000 yards of offense in a
17 single game; among the players Mr. Pardee mentored at the
18 university was Andre Ware, the first African American quarterback
19 to win the Heisman Trophy; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1990, Mr. Pardee returned to the NFL to coach the
21 Houston Oilers, leading the team to four consecutive playoff
22 appearances; he concluded his work with the Oilers in 1994 and
23 coached the Birmingham Barracudas of the Canadian Football League
24 for a year before retiring to his cattle ranch in Gause; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Pardee's accomplishments as a player and coach
26 were honored with a number of accolades, including induction into
27 the College Football Hall of Fame and Coach of the Year awards for

1 his work in the NCAA Southwest Conference, the NFL, the World
2 Football League, and the USFL; in all his endeavors, he enjoyed the
3 love and support of his wife, Phyllis, with whom he shared 56 years
4 of marriage and raised five children; and

5 WHEREAS, A superb athlete and an innovative coach, Jack
6 Pardee excelled in both roles, and his impressive contributions to
7 the sport of football over the course of more than four decades won
8 the respect of his players and peers, as well as countless sports
9 fans in the Lone Star State and beyond; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Jack Pardee and extend
12 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Phyllis;
13 to his children, Steven Pardee, Judee Peterson and her husband,
14 Bruce, Anne Pardee, Susan Brown and her husband, Scott, and Ted
15 Pardee and his wife, Elizabeth; to his grandchildren, Trevor
16 Pardee, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Jake Peterson, Matthew, Kelly,
17 Madeline, Caroline, and Chase Brown, and Ellie, Payton, and Luke
18 Pardee; to his brother, Bob Pardee; and to his other relatives, many
19 friends, and former colleagues and players; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jack
23 Pardee.